

Love + Liberty

MESSAGE: GARY DARNELL

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2021

"Simplifying The Tough Situations Of Life" 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

Paul lays out the guidelines for believers in touchy situations (vv. 23-30).

1. "Right" does not necessarily mean best (v. 23).

1Cor. 10:23 *"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up."*

2. Set your sights on doing good to others (vv. 24-30).

- a. The guiding principle is love: living for the benefit of others (v. 24).

1Cor. 10:24 *"Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor."*

- b. If no issues are raised, then raise no issues (vv. 25-27).

1Cor. 10:25 *"Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. 26 For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." 27 If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience."*

- c. If an issue is raised, then pay attention to who is with you (vv. 28-30).

- i. Protect the weaker believer's conscience (vv. 28-29a).

1Cor. 10:28 *"But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—29a I do not mean your conscience, but his."*

- ii. Protect the stronger believer's conscience from attack (vv. 29b-30).

1Cor. 10:29b *"For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? 30 If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?"*

Paul summarizes for Jesus' people the life of influence (vv. 31-33; 11:1).

1. God's glory: Accurately represent our God's true nature (v. 31).

1Cor. 10:31 *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

2. People's pleasure: Make others' lives as pleasurable as we can (vv. 32-33).

1Cor. 10:32 *Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, **33** just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.*

3. Christ's mentoring: Learn from others who have become like Christ (v. 11:1).

1Cor. 11:1 *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Reflection & Discussion

1. Can you think of situations you've been in where you had done something "lawful" that might have been harmful to another? See verse 23.
2. How does verse 24 give us a definition/explanation of love for others?
3. Read verses 25-27. Now put into your own words the meaning of Paul's words. What does verse 26 mean in this context and why is it important?
4. Read vv. 10:31-33; 11:1 three times. These verses summarize the entire section that began in chapter 8. Identify what is meant by "God's glory" (v. 31), "People's pleasure" (vv. 32-33), and "Christ's mentoring" (v. 11:1). Take some time to evaluate how you can more fully and consistently incorporate these into your life. Especially consider how these can help you deal with touchy situations with other believers.

SONGS

"HOW GREAT THOU ART" – Carl Boberg

"GOD IS FOR US" – M Farren, J Ferguson, T Kleyn, J Reeves, J Robinson, J Tealy, R Thompson

"FOREVER" – B Johnson, C Black-Gifford, G Wilson, J Johnson, J Taylor, K Jobe

"GOODNESS OF GOD" – Ed Cash, Jenn Johnson

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$26,071.00

WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,587,088.24

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,622,512.00