

To the Glory of God; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

I. Lawful

- A. "All things are lawful"
- B. Paul uses this phrase in chapter 6
- C. 1 Corinthians 6:9–13 (ESV); ⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. ¹² "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³ "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
- D. "Paul here used a catch phrase which evidently had wide acceptance among the Corinthians. The liberty in Christ which made "all things lawful" was a relative, not an absolute principle; and any notion that the existence of appetites justified their gratification was not true then, or ever. 'Some of them were evidently quoting this to justify their promiscuous sexual behavior; but Paul positively stated that it did not so apply.'" Coffman (also quoting Halley's Bible Handbook)
- E. So, when Paul uses this phrase again it is not to condone their actions, but to admonish them

II. Seeking Good

- A. 1 Corinthians 10:23–27 (ESV); ²³ "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. 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.
- B. Seeking your neighbor's good is what it is all about
 - 1. Don't get caught up in Paul's statements on eating and drinking
 - 2. The ideal is to behave in a manner that promotes the well being of others
 - 3. Not to be judgmental ("without raising any question on the ground of conscience" verse 27)
- C. This life is not about satisfying our own hunger (whether it be passion or food)
- D. This life is about satisfying God's will since His Son satisfied our debt
- E. Romans 3:23–26 (ESV); ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
 - 1. Propitiation - appease, pacify; to supply satisfaction (Jesus, the Son of God and without sin, His death satisfied God's demand for our lives)
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 5:20–21 (ESV); ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

3. Jesus sought our good at the expense of his life
4. God asks no less of us; to seek the good of others no matter the cost to us

III. Saved

- A. 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1 (ESV); ³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 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. ¹ Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.
- B. Everything Paul did had an ulterior motive, to save the lost
 1. 1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (ESV); ¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.
 2. Romans 9:1–5 (ESV); ¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— ² that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.
- C. Paul gave up (and suffered) so much for Christ
 1. He gave up a successful career as a Pharisee (Galatians 1:14)
 2. He was beaten, imprisoned, stoned, left for dead, shipwrecked
 3. He experienced hunger, thirst, exposure (2 Corinthians 11:22-27)
 4. Paul suffered all of this so he could spread the Gospel to the lost
 5. What have we suffered for the lost (and, therefore, for Christ)?
- D. Paul's encouraged us to imitate Christ (following Paul's actions)
 1. That was a statement directed at the congregation of the Lord's Body that met in Corinth
 2. That statement should have a profound impact on us
 3. We often separate Paul's actions from ours; "It was the beginning of the church," "Paul had a special commission from the Lord"
 4. While those are true statements, Paul gives us our commission, "Be imitators of me as I am of Christ"
 5. Whatever God has made of you or given you, He expects you to use it in service to Him!
 6. "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michaelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'" Martin Luther King
 7. We are called to give our all to God and His Kingdom!
- E. We are seeking the good of others by showing them the Loving Creator and His Son

IV. The Glory of God

- A. We are asked to be servants in the Kingdom

- B. We are told not to worry about ourselves
- C. We are entrusted with the Gospel of Jesus only to give it to others
- D. We are called to live for Christ
- E. Who are you living for?