

SERMON DISCUSSION:

“THREE QUESTIONS REGARDING CHRISTIAN FREEDOM”

1CORINTHIANS 10:23-11:1

Christian freedom is governed by three controlling questions: *Does it build up others? Does it glorify God? Does it serve the mission of God?* Paul corrects the Corinthian slogan “*All things are lawful*” by subordinating freedom to love. Freedom is not self-expression but self-giving. Believers may participate in ordinary commerce and social life without fear, because the earth belongs to the Lord. Yet when an action communicates religious allegiance contrary to Christ, abstinence becomes necessary for the sake of another’s conscience and the clarity of the gospel. Moral reality is not defined by the weak conscience, but love willingly limits rights. All of life—even eating and drinking—must reflect God’s worth through gratitude and joy. Jesus relinquished His rights for the salvation of others. Therefore, Christians leverage freedom for edification, glorifying God, and evangelistic mission

// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: In verse 23, Paul quotes the church's slogan "All things are lawful." How does this reflect their misunderstanding of Christian freedom? Explain Paul’s correction.

:: Verse 24 says "**let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.**" How does this single verse reframe the entire question of Christian freedom?

:: Why is buying meat in the marketplace (v25–26) permissible without investigation?



// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: Paul distinguishes between meat in the marketplace (permitted) and meat in the temple (forbidden as per chapter 10:14-22). What is the difference, and what principle guides the distinction?

:: Paul guards against two errors: putting fences around everything versus tearing down all the fences. How does Paul's teaching in this passage navigate between legalism and license?

:: Christian freedom is not self-expression, but self-giving. How does this contrast with contemporary Western understandings of freedom, and what are the implications?

:: Verse 31 declares that whether we eat or drink, we should do all to the glory of God. Explain how this works.

// GETTING TO CHRIST

:: How does identifying Christ as the Rock that accompanied Israel in the wilderness (v4) reveal His pre-existence, divine nature, and ongoing provision for God's people throughout redemptive history?



// GETTING TO CHRIST

:: Paul calls the church to imitate him as he imitates Christ. In what specific ways did Jesus' ministry answer "yes" to all three questions—does it build up others, glorify God, and serve the mission?

:: Scripture speaks of the Christian life as a cup that overflows—so full of God's life that blessing spills out on to others. How does this picture address the fear that self-giving will leave us depleted?

// GETTING TO YOU

:: Identify a current decision you're facing (entertainment choice, relationship, career move) and walk through these three questions

:: Verse 31 commands doing "**all to the glory of God,**" including eating and drinking. What ordinary routines (commute, meals, exercise, work tasks) can you transform into acts of worship this week?



// GETTING TO YOU

:: Have you ever allowed a concern for your own reputation, comfort, or social standing to lead you to participate in something that compromised your witness?

// GETTING TO OTHERS

:: Paul “**tries to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.**” What cultural practices might Christians need to adopt or abstain from to remove barriers to the gospel in the American context? In a Muslim Majority context?

:: What intentional steps can we take to become the kind of people whom non-Christians want to invite into their lives?

