

1 Corinthians Part Two

Lesson #7, Chapter 10:23-33

Go to the Lord and ask for His help as you dig into His Word.

1. Summarize Chapter 10 verses 1-22. Be sure to explain the connections between sections (whenever *for* or *therefore* is used) in verses 1, 12, and 14.

2. How does Paul begin this section in verse 23? What do we learn about *all things*?

3. Verse 23 is a more recognizable return to Paul's discussion on Christian liberties than what we've been studying the last two lessons. First Corinthians 10:1-22 details the consequences of pushing our freedoms too far, to the point that we enter into sin or actually engage in idolatry. Both discussions are necessary to keep in mind when we talk about our freedoms in the Lord. Based on 1 Cor. 10:1-22 complete this statement: We are never free to _____.

4. Based on your answer to number 3 how would answer this question: What kinds of things are *lawful*?

5. While we may all eagerly jump on the freedom bandwagon, what exhortation are we given in verse 24?

6. What law do we operate under now? See 1 Cor. 9:20-21; Gal. 6:2; James 2:8, 12.
 - a. What does Gal. 5:22-23 tell us is completely lawful and which there is no law against?

- b. Based on what we've studied in Chapter 8 and here in 10:23-24, what attitude does it seem the believers possessed about their freedoms in Christ?

 - c. How do the verses from question 7 and 7a aid us in the area of exercising our Christian liberties?
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- 7. Verses 25 and following are an example of how we can “do good” to our neighbor, exercising our freedoms within the law of Christ. What is the first way we can accomplish that? See verses 25-26.

 - 8. Why does Paul bring up the conscience in verse 25? See 1 Cor. 8:7, 10-13.

 - 9. What do we know about our consciences? See 1 Sam. 24:5; Acts. 23:1; 24:16; Rom. 13:5; 1 Cor. 8:7, 12; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 3:9; 4:2; Titus 1:15; Heb. 10:22.

 - 10. Another scenario of being sensitive to the conscience, *yours* or *someone else's*, is given in verses 27-29a. What example is set for us in those verses?

 - 11. Why would we adjust our wants or preferences for the sake of someone's conscience? See 1 Cor. 8:9, 12-13; 9:12, 23; 10:33.

 - 12. What do the Scriptures have to say about causing someone else to stumble in their faith because of something we do or say? See Matt. 18:1-11; 1 Cor. 8:9, 13; Rev. 2:14.

13. What an example of sensitive living is outlined here! We really have to pay attention so we won't miss the little hints about the alarms of the conscience when we're with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Can you describe a time when you adjusted your freedom for the sake of someone else? What were your reasons for doing so?
 - a. Did you ever have a time when you hurt someone's conscience by your persistence in exercising your freedoms? What did you learn from that experience?

14. The ESV does a great job of translating the second half of verse 29. It says, *For why should my liberty be determined by someone's else's conscience?* Why indeed? How is it that we must adjust our liberties for the sake of someone's conscience? You probably already know the answer, but if you want, you can look at these verses for the answer: Rom. 14:14-23; 1 Cor. 9:19.

15. By looking at the questions Paul poses in verses 29-30 we can guess at some of the objections the believers had about curtailing their liberties for the sake of a brother or sister in Christ. What would you say their objections were according to what you read in verses 29-30?

16. The *coup de grace* to their objections comes in verse 31. How does verse 31 strike a deathblow to their protests?

17. Usually when we quote verse 31, we are trying to encourage each other to have a good attitude or press on with a dreaded task. How does understanding the context of this verse give added insight into the command?

18. Again, context determines the extent that we would obey verse 32 when we *give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God*. According to Chapter 10 when should we strive not to offend our brothers and sisters in Christ or those we are trying to win to salvation? When is it permissible, and even commanded, to offend others? See Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; Gal. 1:10; Eph. 6:6; James 4:4.

19. The overarching theme of the Apostle Paul's life can be summed up in verse 33. What was his goal in everything he did?

20. Some believe that 1 Corinthians 11:1 should be tacked on to the end of this Chapter. How would that admonition add more weight to what has already been said?

21. List some of the freedoms or liberties you enjoy as a believer. Next think of those who may have a weak conscience about one of those lawful freedoms. Now insert your freedom and those who object into verses 31-33. As you read those verses with your situation in mind, how would you put verses 31-33 into practice?

22. What is the most surprising or interesting thing you've learned from Chapters 8-10 in our study on Christian liberties?

If you studied 1 Corinthians Part 1 you already saw Pastor Jack Hughes' *Christian Liberties Truth Grid* below. I'm including it again here because you won't want to miss reading through this helpful diagnostic tool as you consider how to live more biblically when it comes to Christian liberties.

Christian Liberties Truth Grid

1. Are you fully convinced in your own mind that your liberty is acceptable to God and not contrary to the Scriptures (Rom. 14:5, 14, 23; I Cor. 8:1, 8)?
2. Can you engage in this activity and still guard your heart and keep it pure (Prov. 4:23)?
3. Are you exercising your liberty for the Lord and His glory (Rom. 14:6-8; I Cor. 6:20; 10:31)?
4. In exercising your liberty will you be in the presence of someone who thinks your liberty is forbidden in Scripture (Rom. 14:14)?
5. Will you be exercising your liberty in love, considering others before yourself (Rom. 15:1-3; 14:15; I Cor. 8:1; Phil. 2:3-4)?
6. Will you, by exercising your liberty, harm, destroy, or put a stumbling block before someone else's faith (Mt. 18:4-7; Rom. 14:13, 15, 20-22; I Cor. 8:7, 9-13)?
7. If you exercise your liberty, will it cause what is for you a good thing to be spoken of as evil (Rom. 14:16)?
8. In exercising your liberty will it edify and build others up (Rom. 15:1-3; 14:19; I Cor. 8:1)?
9. Is exercising your liberty going to help or hinder your ability to win others to Christ (I Cor. 9:19-22)?
10. Will exercising your liberty tempt you to sin or put you in a position to be easily tempted to sin i.e., will it cause you to live on the edge of the cliff (Prov. 27:12; Gal. 5:13; I Pet. 2:16)?
11. Can you exercise your liberty and still maintain peace (Rom. 14:17-19)?
12. Is it wise for me to exercise this liberty if I am, or have been enslaved or mastered by it (I Cor. 6:12; Gal. 5:13; I Pet. 2:16)?
13. Are you taking into consideration your position and influence in the body of Christ? Leaders need to be extra careful in the exercise of their liberties as they are high profile examples to all (Lev. 10:8-9; Prov. 31:4-5; Eccl. 10:16-17; I Tim. 3:3-7; Tit. 1:5-9).