

MAKING CHOICES THAT GLORIFY GOD

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

1/30/05

People often differ on what they think is right and wrong for us to do as Christians?

Forms of entertainment, dress, music, use of alcohol, tobacco, gambling, what is acceptable to do on Sunday.

How can you and I know if something is okay for us to do as Christians when it is not specifically mentioned in the Bible?

In 1 Corinthians 8-10, Paul has been laying down certain principles to help us make decisions that will honor and glorify God.

There are seven questions that we should ask ourselves.

1. Is it forbidden in the Bible?

Drunkenness and drugs

2. Is it profitable?

Is it spiritually beneficial?

Is it eternally significant?

Will it help or hinder my spiritual growth?

How much time should you spend on video games, sports or a hobby

3. Will it control me?

Physically or emotionally?

Pornography

4. Will it harm my body?

Applies to taking up smoking

5. Will it cause another Christian to stumble?

To sin or fall back into their former lifestyle?

Hanging out in bars

6. Does it violate my conscience?

This morning we will look at a seventh and final question that we should ask ourselves.

7. Will it hinder my ability to witness for Christ to the non-Christian?

2. Principles 10:23-24

- a. Some things that are not sinful may not be beneficial to you or others. v. 23a

Profitable here means beneficial

Is it spiritually beneficial?

Is it eternally significant?

- b. Some things that are not sinful may not build up you or others. v. 23 b

Edify means to build up or strengthen

Will it help or hinder your spiritual growth or that of another?

- c. We should pursue our neighbor's good over our own desires. v. 24

This verse encourages you and me to not put our own wants and desires ahead of what is best for others.

We will see that the *neighbor* in the context refers to an unsaved neighbor.

We should unselfishly limit our choices to those that will help us to reach the unsaved.

We should not do anything that would hinder our witness.

3. An Illustration 10:25-30

vv. 25-27 It was alright for them to eat anything that was sold in the market place.

Even if it might have been sacrificed to an idol.

They didn't have to ask questions about its origin.

They didn't have to feel guilty about eating it.

Everything is ultimately the Lord's.

vv. 28-30 If an unbeliever invited them over and served meat, they didn't have to inquire if it had been sacrificed to an idol, unless the host made an issue of it.

If he made an issue of it, the Christians were not to eat the meat because the host would see them as compromising their faith.

The unbeliever would then not take the Christian's testimony of Christ seriously.

Me witnessing in a bar while in college

4. The Application 10:31-11:1

Do all to the glory of God

glory- honor

To help others to see the greatness and goodness of God

This should be our primary motivation for everything we do in life.

But how do we bring honor and glory to God?

b. We can glorify God in the small choices of life. 10:31

In such small things as what we chose to eat or drink.

In whatever you do

We can therefore glorify God by:

What we choose to not eat and drink.

Pork

Alcohol

Coffee and tea

Other choices that glorify God may involve:

What we do on Sundays

Places we frequent

Choices of entertainment

Attitude on the job

Right to speak our mind

The clothes we wear (offensive)

logos or fashion

Beard in the 60's

Language we use

Though not cursing and swearing, we can harm our witness by being crude and earthy.

The way we talk about people

Depending on the culture what we chose to do may vary, but the questions are always the same.

1. Is it forbidden in the Bible?
2. Is it spiritually beneficial?
3. Will it control me?
4. Will it harm my body?
5. Will it cause another Christian to stumble?
6. Does it violate my conscience?
7. Will it hinder my ability to witness for Christ to the unsaved?

We glorify God by the small choices we make.

- c. **We glorify God by choosing to not unnecessarily *offend* others. 10:32**

In other words, we glorify God by giving up our rights for the benefit of others.

By limiting our choices and activities so that we can minister in the lives of others.

Jews, Greeks, or the Church of God

Moslems, Buddhists, Mormons, etc.

Matthew 22:37-39 And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 'This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 'The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

- d. **We glorify God by choosing to live in such a way that others may be saved. 10:33**

We need to be careful not to do things that will hinder others from coming to Christ.

- e. **We glorify God by choosing to follow Paul and Christ's example. 11:1**

Paul

9:19-22

Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

Christ gave up the comforts and pleasures of heaven for a life of poverty, disdain, and pain on earth

Big Idea: We glorify God by giving up our rights for the spiritual well-being of others.

1. Is there something in your life that may be hindering your effectiveness in leading others to Christ?

Are you willing to give it up in for the glory of God and the spiritual well-being of others?

2. Are you saved?

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be **saved**."

Acts 16:30-31

Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be **saved** from the wrath *of God* through Him.

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be **saved**;

2 Timothy 1:9 who has **saved** us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Titus 3:5 He **saved** us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,