



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

Glorifying God by Imitating Christ

Sunday, November 13, 2016

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TEXT: 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

Paul concludes his discussion on idolatry and the Corinthians insistence on attending cultic meals at the pagan temples. Paul absolutely forbids eating sacrificial food at the temple meals because it is inseparable from the worship of demons.

What about the idol food sold at the marketplaces? Apparently, Paul himself had no problem with it and had been known to eat it. However, Paul sets forth the guiding principles that govern such eating. The ultimate principle is the *glory of God* (10:31). Paul sets forth the principles involved in a glorifying life.

I. GOD-GLORIFYING LIVES CONSIDER THE GOOD OF OTHERS (10:23-24).

A. Lives That Glorify God Seek the Benefit of Others (10:23a).

B. Lives That Glorify God Build-up Others (10:23b).

C. Lives That Glorify God Imitate Christ (10:24; 11:1).

For Paul, a selfless life that imitates Christ is basic to the Christian walk and part of the instructions he gave to the early church (cf. Rom 15:1-3; Phi 2:2-5). It is on this basis that he concludes his present argument (1 Cor 10:33-11:1).

For Paul, Christ's death in which he gave himself "for us" serves as God's offer of pardon for sinners and the pattern for all disciples to follow.

D. Lives That Glorify God Seek the Salvation of Others (10:33).

II. GOD-GLORIFYING LIVES RECOGNIZE THAT THE LORD IS THE GIVER OF ALL THINGS (10:25-26).

A. Since All Belongs to God, His Provisions Are to Be Received with Confidence and Gratitude (10:25-26, 30).

B. Since All Provisions Are a Gift from God, His Gifts Are “Uncontaminated” (10:27).

For a Christian who bought meat at a market with the intent of eating it at home, Paul recommended that purchases be made without reservation. No one could contaminate what God had made clean (cf. Acts 10:15) since everything belongs to Him (Ps. 24:1).

1. God’s gifts can become an idol.
2. God’s gifts can become a stumbling block.

POINT: The Corinthians were permitted to buy and eat the meat sold at the market place so long as the *issue of idolatry* did not come up. The Christian has freedom in moral neutral matters. This freedom is to be tempered when it comes to others.

III. GOD-GLORIFYING LIVES SACRIFICE PERSONAL FREEDOMS FOR THE SAKE OF THE CONSCIENCES OF OTHERS (10:27-30)

“Freedom” does not mean “to seek what pleases me,” not even “my own good”; rather it means to be free in Christ in such a way that one can truly seek to benefit and build up others— *Fee*.

A. Whose Conscience Is in View? (“*if anyone says to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience' sake*” 10:28)

Options:

1. The host

2. A fellow believing guest
3. A fellow non-believing guest

Note: In his action and limiting of his freedom, Paul seeks the salvation of all men (10:33).

B. What is the Motivation behind the Exposure? (*"This is meat sacrificed to idols,"*)

1. For the Informant: *Helping the Christian out.*
2. For Paul: *Not to offend the informant and his moral expectations of a follower of Christ.*

IV. APPLICATION:

A. Selflessly Live to Benefit and Build-up Others.

B. Use Your Freedom to Glorify God Not to Please Self.

C. Commit Yourself to Win the Lost to Christ and Not to Turn Them Away.

D. Be Sensitive to the Consciences of Others.

E. Imitate Christ so that Others Can Imitate You (*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. 11:1*)

QUESTION: If others were to imitate you, would they see Christ?