

Welcome Home
Love Limits Liberty
09/02/2018 Sunday AM

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:23-33, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Introduction

- Last week we discussed **Applying the Bible for Dummies**.
- For many people, the Bible intimidates them with all its dos and don'ts and they struggle applying the Bible.
- Jesus summed up the entire Bible with two commands:
 1. **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”**
 2. **“Love your neighbor as yourself” and “do to [them] what you would have them do to you.”**
- This morning we will begin a series called **“Welcome Home”**. Today's title is **Love Limits Liberty**.

1 Corinthians 10:23-33

²³"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive. ²⁴Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. ²⁵Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." ²⁷If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸But if anyone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake -- ²⁹the other man's conscience, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience? ³⁰If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for? ³¹So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³²Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God-- ³³even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

- Context: There was a heated debate about the use of food dedicated to idols. One group was correct theologically, but they were insisting on their rights to the detriment of other believers.
- V. 23 – Paul begins in this verse to help the people with this problem they are having. He makes this statement to illustrate that some things are “legal” to do but aren’t “beneficial” or “constructive.”
- V.24 – Paul says, “Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.” This principle needs to be at the core of every believer’s thought process. We are to think of others, before we think of ourselves.
- Understanding these two statements in vv. 23-24 will really help as we understand the rest of the passage.
- Vv.25-26 – Paul directs them to “eat everything sold in the meat market” without asking questions.
- It was not necessary for them to ask was the meat sacrificed to idols and for them to look for a problem.
- Why? – v.26 – Because everything on earth is the Lord’s.
- Paul goes further in v. 27 and speaks about going to someone’s house for dinner and eating whatever their serve without raising questions of “conscience.”
- If you read just these few verses, it would appear that Paul was saying “loosen your standards.” **Was he?**
- V. 28 – “But if anyone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it...”
- Paul was not trying to get them to loosen their standards, he was teaching them how to conduct themselves.
- vv. 29-31 – We should all be sensitive to the convictions of those around us, whatever those convictions are.
- There are times when we will have to put aside our convictions in order to defer to someone else’s convictions, **Love Limits Liberty**.
- Out standard should be that we thank God for everything and do everything to His glory.
- Paul ends this passage with vv. 32-33 encouraging the people to not cause anyone to stumble.
- This goes both ways, do not cause people to stumble by looking for things to be offended by, and also do not cause someone to stumble by doing things you know offend them.
- Paul ends with these wonderful words, “...I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.”
- In order to reach people, we must at times allow our Love to Limit our Liberty.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

- In these verses Paul beautifully models what being a servant of the gospel looks like.
- v. 19 – Martin Luther is quoted as saying, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."
- Paul was illustrating in this verse that he was free in Christ, however he willingly made himself a slave to everyone in order to lead as many people to Christ as he could.
- In vv. 20-22 he explains how he does this and what it looks like:
 - "To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews.
 - To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.
 - To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.
 - To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some."
- Why does Paul do all this? V. 23, "...for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."
- Again, **Love Limits Liberty**. Here is a list of "rights" we surrendered when we received Christ:
 1. The right to take revenge (Rom. 12:19-20)
 2. The right to have a comfortable, secure home (Luke 9:57-58)
 3. The right to spend our money however we please (Matt. 6:19-21)
 4. The right to hate an enemy (Matt. 5:43-48)
 5. The right to live life by our own rules (John 14:23-24)
 6. The right to hold a grudge (Colossians 3:13)
 7. The right to fit into society (Rom. 12:2, Gal. 1:10)
 8. The right to do whatever feels good (Gal.5:16-17, 1 Peter 4:2)
 9. The right to complain (Phil. 2:14)
 10. The right to put self first (Phil. 2:3-4)
 11. The right to express one's sexuality in ways that are contrary to the way of God (1 Cor. 6:18-20)
 12. The right to rebel against authority (1 Peter 2:13-15)
 13. The right to sue another believer 1 Cor. 6:1-8)
 14. The right to end a disappointing marriage (Matt. 5:31-32)
- **As Christians, it may seem that we "give up" a lot, but what is it that we gain?**
- **Are you willing to put "self" aside in order to reach others for Christ?**
- **How "welcoming" are you to those that may not think or act like you? How does your answer affect your witness for Jesus?**

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Study of the Book of Romans Romans 1:18-32