

Studies In First Corinthians

(I Corinthians 10:23-33)

1. Must we be concerned as to whether or not our lawful liberties are edifying to others?

Yes: *"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not"* (I Corinthians 10:23).

- We must always first be concerned as to whether or not something is lawful (**Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 6:46, Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, and James 2:10-12**).
- Then we must be sure those things are expedient (**I Corinthians 6:12**).
- Then we must be sure that those liberties are edifying (**Romans 14:19, Romans 15:1-2, and I Thessalonians 5:11**).
- There is a difference between lawful liberties and commands. If we MUST do something it does not matter whether or not it is expedient or edifying (**John 6:61-66, Acts 7:51, Galatians 2:1-5, II Timothy 4:2, etc.**). If it is a lawful liberty we may or may not do it, as it doesn't matter one way or the other (**I Corinthians 8:8-13**).

2. Should we be selfish people?

No: *"Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth"* (I Corinthians 10:24).

- **Mark 10:43-45, Acts 20:35, I Corinthians 9:19-24, Galatians 5:13, and Philippians 2:4-9**.
- We cannot define the word translated "wealth" as it does not appear in the Greek text.

3. If a Christian is buying meat or eating at a feast wherein meats offered to idols may be present, should that Christian investigate where the meat they are getting came from?

No, don't ask questions about that meat so you can eat it with a clear conscience: *"(25) Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake: (26) For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof. (27) If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake"* (I Corinthians 10:25-27).

- If I don't know something was offered to an idol, I can eat it with the understanding that all meats are from God (**Acts 10:9-15, Romans 14:14, and I Timothy 4:1-5**).
- We should note that these Scriptures show us we can shop in markets that may contain things that are/can be sinful. However, we have to be cautious NOT to take this to a sinful extreme (**Proverbs 4:14-15 and I Thessalonians 5:22**).
- We may go to events with unbelievers (**Mark 2:13-17, Luke 7:36, and I Corinthians 5:9-13**). Yet again, we cannot allow this to turn into an extreme (**Ephesians 5:11, I Timothy 6:3-5, James 4:4, and II John 9-11**).

4. Should you eat something if you know it was part of a sacrifice to an idol?

No: *“But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof” (I Corinthians 10:28).*

- **Acts 15:29, Acts 21:25, Revelation 2:14, and Revelation 2:20.**

5. Why are we judged by another's conscience?

That they might be saved: *“(29) Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience? (30) For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks? (31) Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (32) Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: (33) Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved” (I Corinthians 10:29-33).*

- My conscience (**Romans 13:5, I Timothy 1:5, I Timothy 1:19, and I Peter 3:16**) and the consciences of others (**Romans 14:15-21 and I Corinthians 8:12**) must be a concern to me when concerning authorized liberties.
- Whatever we do, we must do to the glory of God (**Romans 16:27 and I Peter 4:11**).
- Give no offense (**Matthew 18:1-6**). Keep this in context though. We're talking about liberties. Obviously living faithful will offend some people (**I Peter 2:5-8**).
- Contextually, we must be willing to sacrifice our authorized liberties if it can help others be saved. The fact is, outside of your salvation (**Philippians 2:12**), you should be willing to suffer through much to help others be saved (**II Corinthians 1:6, II Corinthians 4:15, II Corinthians 12:19, Colossians 1:23-29, and II Timothy 2:9-10**).