

The Limits of Believers and Freedom

1 Corinthians 10:14–11:01

1 *Flee idolatry*

14 Therefore, my dear friends,
flee from idolatry.

2 *Judge whether our participation in a function identifies who we worship*

15 I speak to sensible people;
judge for yourselves what I say.

a. Participation in the Lord's
Supper identifies us
as worshippers of the Lord

16 Is not the cup of thanks-giving
for which we give thanks
a participation in the blood of Christ?
And is not the bread that we break
a participation in the body of Christ?

b. Participation with others
identifies us with their function
and lifestyle

17 Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.

c. Participation of Israel
in worship identified them
as worshippers of God

18 Consider the people of Israel:
Do not those who eat the sacrifices
participate in the altar?

d. Participation in idolatry
is meaningless worship

19 Do I mean then
that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything,
or that an idol is anything?

e. Participation in idolatry is
fellowshipping with demons

20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans
are offered to demons, not to God,
and I do not want you to be
participants with demons.

f. Participation in idolatry
condemns one:
Keeps one from participating
in the Lord's Supper

21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord
and the cup of demons too;
you cannot have a part in both
the Lord's table and the table of demons.

g. Participation in idolatry
provokes God

22 Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy?
Are we stronger than he?

3 *Judge whether lawful acts are always permissible*

23 "Everything is permissible"

a. Test 1: Is it beneficial,
edifying?

— but not everything is beneficial.

"Everything is permissible"

— but not everything is constructive.

<p>b. Test 2: Does it seek the welfare of others?</p> <p>c. Test 3: Does it violate a person's conscience?</p> <p>d. Test 4: Is it courteous and kind?</p> <p>e. Test 5: Does it hurt the conscience of another person?</p> <p>4 <i>Judge whether our behaviour and freedom should be determined by another person's conscience</i></p> <p>a. Because a person is to do all for God's glory</p> <p>b. Because a person is never to be a stumbling block</p> <p>c. Because a person is to please all men</p> <p>1) Paul's commitment</p> <p>2) Paul's example</p>	<p>24 Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.</p> <p>25 Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience,</p> <p>26 For, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."</p> <p>27 If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience.</p> <p>28 But 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 —</p> <p>29 The other man's conscience, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience?</p> <p>30 If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?</p> <p>31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.</p> <p>32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God</p> <p>33 Even 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.</p> <p>CHAPTER 11</p> <p>1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.</p>
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