

Do All to the Glory of God

Christian Liberty, Conscience, and God's Created Order

1. Is It Beneficial? (1 Corinthians 10:23–24)

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.

- Christian freedom is not about self-indulgence but seeking the good of others.
- "Is this permissible?" vs. "Is this beneficial?"

2. The Principle of Conscience (1 Corinthians 10:25–30)

"Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience..."

- Conscience is God-given for discerning right from wrong; it must be shaped by God's Word.
- Conscience is personal, but it's not meant to function in isolation.

3. The Ultimate Purpose: Glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31–33)

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

- "Life of worship" – lens of viewing all that we do (however common) as ways to express the goodness, holiness, and glory of God.
- Consider application for: The pervasiveness of idol worship in every fabric of society; freedom's power to destroy; and the gospel witness for a watching world.

4. Follow Christ's Example (1 Corinthians 11:1)

"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

- Paul models Christlike self-denial, willingly surrendering rights for the gospel's sake.
- Christians are called to reflect Christ's humility and sacrificial love.

5. God's Created Order and Authority (1 Corinthians 11:2–3)

"The head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God."

- God's design for authority—rooted in creation—fosters human flourishing. We see this in heaven (God as the head of Christ) in church (the role of male leadership) and in the home (husbands as the heads of their wives and households).
- The beauty of God's creation – men and woman are both equally valued, equal partakers of the spirit, and of equal importance in the functioning of the body of Christ
 - But our freedom in Christ does not mean, Paul is saying, that there are no gender distinctions between men and women!
 - **The actions and their dress under the guise of Christian freedom was subverting God's created authority, order, and design for the home and the church.**

6. Symbols of Respect in Worship (1 Corinthians 11:4–10)

- Main principle: consider the implications of a man dressing in a clearly feminine way, or a woman taking off her wedding ring at church! Cultural symbols that can subvert God's wise design, order, and authority for human flourishing.
- Verse 10: "angels" (probably *messengers*)
 - What seems likely in this context, and in line with the yielding of our freedoms for the sake of others - is that this mention of angels is not referring to heavenly beings but Judaizers who came to "spy out" their Christian liberties and gentiles who would be offended by their practices.

7. Mutual Dependence of Men and Women (1 Corinthians 11:11–15)

"In the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman."

- Men and women are interdependent, equally valued, and complementary in God's design.
- We want to honor and celebrate these distinctions as reflections of God's order and provision.

8. Avoid Contentiousness in the Church (1 Corinthians 11:16)

"If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God."

- Pursuing unity in worship reflects a shared commitment to God's design and order – and discernment about the core issues of the gospel.

Framework for Gospel-Shaped Lives

- Does this action glorify God and build others up?
 - Christian liberty must always be tempered by love, discernment, and a desire to honor God's in all that we do and say.
- Does this action support and align with God's created order & authority?
 - Or are we using our Christian liberty to subvert His design, destabilize those with weak consciences, and provide a poor witness to a watching world?

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31