

“Christian Liberty - Part 4”

1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

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I. Introduction

- A. The apostle Paul is concerned that some of the Corinthian believers were in danger
 - 1. The danger of overconfidence
 - a) If they weren't careful in exercising them, three things could happen
 - 1) They could fall into sin (vv. 1-13)
 - 2) They could fellowship with demons (vv. 14-22)
 - 3) They could stumble another believer (vv. 23-11:1)
 - b) The same things for us
 - c) How could this happen?
 - 1) For the Corinthians, “saved from the worship of idols in the pagan temples but now the danger of going back”
 - 2) The warning to “flee from idolatry”
 - 3) You may say, “thank God we don't have to worry about that today”
 - a. Yes, you do!
 - b. (1 John 5:21)
 - c. Like the Corinthians, we have been set free from the old life with all its idols
 - d. Be careful you don't go back
 - i. Sports
 - ii. Hobbies
 - iii. TV
 - iv. Movies
 - v. Parties
 - vi. Dances
 - vii. Vacations
 - viii. Work
 - ix. Occupation
 - x. Gambling
 - xi. Drinking
 - 4) Paul wants us to have discernment (v. 15)

II. The Danger of Fellowshiping with Demons (1 Corinthians 10:16-22)

- A. Paul shows them that participation in the pagan feast within the temple was a misuse of Christian liberty and really involved them in fellowship with the evil world of demons
 - 1. (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1)
 - 2. Eating involves fellowship, and he illustrated this in three ways
 - a) The ordinance of the Lord's Supper (vv. 16-17)
 - b) The Old Testament priest and sacrifices (v. 18)
 - c) Pagans and their sacrifices to idols (vv. 19-20)

- 1) (Revelation 13)
- 2) The conclusion- mutual fellowship with God and demons is impossible (vv. 21-22)
- 3) The “cup of the Lord”
 - a. A figurative expression for the fellowship and benefits we have in Christ
 - b. The Lord’s Table
 - c. Fellowship with the Lord

III. The Danger of Stumbling Another (1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1)

- A. Edification over gratification (v. 23)
 1. We must not judge our actions simply by the standard of what is lawful
 - a) Is it expedient or profitable?
 - b) Does it edify or build up?
 2. Others over self (v. 24)
 - a) (Philippians 2)
 - b) True love does not seek its own
 - c) How will it affect others?
- B. The principle illustrated (vv. 25-30)
 1. The meat market (vv. 25-26)
 2. The private dinner (v. 27)
 3. The religious dinner (vv. 28-30)
- C. In concluding this section on Christian liberty, Paul issued three simple commands
 1. Do everything for the glory of God (v. 31)
 - a) Everything!
 2. Give no offense (vv. 32-33)
 - a) Illustration- Christian passing out tracks
 - b) Illustration- If Christians were more concerned about winning the lost, we wouldn’t be fighting over our liberties or how far into the world we could go
 3. Be followers of me (11:1)
 - a) Because Paul followed Christ
 - b) Many cannot say this because there are so many things in our lives that we don’t want others to follow

IV. Conclusion

- A. Out of these chapters come several “tests” we may apply to our own decisions and activities
 1. All things are lawful but:
 - a) Will they lead to freedom or slavery? (6:12)
 - b) Will they make me a stumbling block, or a stepping-stone? (8:13)
 - c) Will they build me up, or tear me down? (10:23)
 - d) Will they only please me, or will they glorify Christ? (10:31)
 - e) Will they help to win the lost to Christ, or turn them away? (10:33)
 2. Knowledge balanced by love (8:1)
 3. Experience balanced by caution (11:12)

4. Freedom balanced by responsibility (11:24)