



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of January 7, 2024

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- Think about a time someone was offended by you, even though your conscience was clear that you did not sin. What did you do about it?

1 Corinthians 10:23 - 11:1

^{10:23} "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

- **Paul continues his discussion of Christian freedom & responsibility. When exercising freedom, what must we consider? What would be an example of considering our neighbor in this way? (23-24)**

²⁵ Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁶ For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." [[Psalm 24:1](#)]

- **Paul brings a few case studies to illustrate how to practice freedom and seek our neighbor's good. He first addresses the spiritual struggle the Corinthian Christians faced in the market, where meat that had been sacrificed to idols was for sale (25-26). How does he counsel them?**
- **Paul quotes Psalm 24:1 for his rationale. What is his reasoning?**

All to the Glory of God

²⁷ If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience.

- **Case Study #2: What if your unbelieving neighbor invites you to dinner, and serves meat that might have been a pagan offering?**

²⁸ But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—

- **Case Study #3: What if someone whispers to you, "This is idol meat. I thought you'd want to know."? What is Paul's reason for setting aside the freedom to eat?**

²⁹ I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? ³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

- **Paul has already declared our conscience is free in Christ. If we know that the Lord is greater than idols, and that God is the one who gives us our food, we are free to eat with thankfulness to God. Yet, we may still set aside our free conscience for the troubled conscience of another! Can you share about a time you yielded to the sensitive conscience of someone else? Or, someone yielded to your sensitive conscience? How did that feel?**

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³ just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. ^{11:1} Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

- **Paul gives the ultimate reason for all that we do, or all that we refrain from. What does he mean? (31)**
- **Paul seeks to offend no one—not Greeks, not Jews, and not his fellow Christians. What is his motivation for this? (32-33)**

- **Another way to think about all of this: Have you done anything lately, or refrained from something, simply because you were trusting Jesus?**
- **Ultimately, Paul understands that he is a follower of Jesus Christ. Jesus was free, yet He submitted to the Law, our human condition, and the wrath of God. For us, and for our salvation (11:1). Reflect on this week's passage together, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
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