

Small Group Guide: *Can I?—Or Should I?* - 1 Corinthians 10:1-33
The Gospel Centered Life - Part 8, 08/02/26

Key Takeaways:

- Spiritual privilege does not guarantee spiritual faithfulness
- God is faithful in temptation
- Freedom in Christ is not the same as license to do whatever we want
- Association with things opposed to God matters
- A Gospel Centered life is lived for the glory of God

Icebreaker Question: Think of a time when you were technically free to do something but chose not to because of how it might affect someone else. What drove that decision?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-11. Paul uses Israel's history as a warning to the Corinthian church. What specific failures does he list in verses 6-10, and which of those do you think is most relevant to Christians today? Why? a) What spiritual blessings have you received that you may be taking for granted?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13. What is the warning and the encouragement Paul gives? How do they work together?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and Philippians 4:12-13. The 'way out' God provides isn't always an escape from a tempting situation, often it's a strengthening that enables us to endure it. How does that reframe the way you think about asking God for help when you are tempted? a) Where in your life are you facing temptation and trying to endure it alone rather than relying on God's provision?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 10:16-17. Paul uses communion as an illustration of how participation implies association. What does that tell us about the seriousness with which God views our spiritual allegiances—not just our outward actions? a) Are there habits, relationships, or patterns in your life that, while not obviously sinful, are slowly pulling your allegiance away from God?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:23. Paul quotes what appears to be a slogan some Corinthians were using: "I have the right to do anything." How does Paul reframe that statement, and what two tests does he apply to it? a) How can we practically apply those two tests to the way we live our lives? b) Is there something you regularly do—not sinful in itself—that may be unhelpful or even harmful to someone else's faith?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 10:33. Paul ends this section of his letter by saying his goal is 'the good of many, so that they may be saved.' How does keeping that ultimate goal in view change the way you think about the small, daily decisions you make about how to use your freedom? a) What would change about your average day if you approached every moment as an opportunity to glorify God and point someone toward the gospel?
7. Our society tends to focus on differences rather than on what we have in common, and this produces division. How does the Gospel challenge that approach? a) How well do you think Eastpark, and your own life, reflects that challenge?

Prayer:

- For God to reveal any area where personal freedom has become more important than love for Him or others
- To trust that God will provide 'ways out' when temptation comes this week
- To make our lives—in the ordinary, everyday moments of eating and drinking and whatever we do—a clear reflection of His glory