

BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS
"Guidelines for Christian Conduct"
1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23-33

THINK!

1. Only a Christian is called to live like a Christian. A Christian is a true, honest-to-goodness believer on Christ.
2. A believer has acknowledged: a. His sin. b. Need for turning from sin. c. That Jesus Christ died for sin. d. True faith on the death, burial, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ for one's self i.e. personally.
3. Moreover, the Bible is the only rule for Christian conduct--not peers, opinions, etc.
4. Now, check out the following questions about your conduct. Be sure your answers jibe with the Bible. On 8:24

1. AM I A BELIEVER FREE? 6:12, 10:23

Four times the Bible says "All things are lawful for me" The "me" includes Paul the Apostle. This may have been a proverb. But this freedom or liberty cannot condone sin. Look at 5:1-13; 6:1-11.

2. IS MY PRACTICE WORTHWHILE?

The word for "expedient" literally means to bring together. It has the idea of something being advantageous, useful, profitable, worthwhile. The question is--is the conduct good for me to do when considered with everything else. See the words used in Mt. 19:10. So, liberty is qualified by expediency. Think about that!

3. IS MY PRACTICE A CONTROLLING HABIT? 6:12

The verb here is an aorist passive form. This suggests outside control. The word "power" is better understood as "authority." Thus, if a particular item makes one a slave, duty-bound, addicted to something or someone, there is a giant call to liberty! The "of any" is neuter and means anything whatsoever. It is a support of John 8:36. Simple common sense (not very common) would dictate this whole matter. OK--liberty, freedom must be maintained. You must not be shackled by anything absolutely.

4. IS MY PRACTICE A STUMBLING BLOCK? 10:23-30

Now here's a big question. Is what I am doing constructive and therefore building up someone? Of course, this is a call to look out for the welfare of others and not self (v. 24). In the context, it appears that the emphasis is on what your relationship is to a believer. Obviously, you can't altogether exclude the non believer. The issue raised is food offered to an idol (v. 25).

Now true mature believers know that idols are nothing, therefore food offered to them is not affected (cf. 1 Cor. 8). But some are not so informed or have that sort of understanding. So you've got a problem. What do you do? The answer is clear: you don't become a stumbling block; you don't seek your own advantage. You give up and see another believer's welfare. Wow--that's a new twist for the "me first, you-owe-it-to-yourself" generation. Ah, but this is the Bible!

4. IS MY PRACTICE FOR GOD'S GLORY? 10:31

It is true that glory is a part of God's being, fabric. But what is meant here is this: will the splendour of His perfections, particularly His holiness and love, be seen, declared, manifested by my conduct? Put it this way--will people, saved and unsaved, understand God's love and holiness by my conduct? Ah, that is it. This is undoubtedly the ruling maxim and passion for all Christian conduct.

5. IS MY PRACTICE A HINDERANCE? 10:32, 33

Here is something which really hits an honest Christian. Out there, outside the church are Jews and Gentiles who need to be forgiven, saved. So you have to conduct yourself in such a way that they will be saved. You don't consider yourself or your own advantage, but the advantage of the unforgiven! You don't lead others into sin by your mode of life, but you do everything possible not to be a hinderance so that as many Jews and Gentiles as possible will get saved.

END OF IT ALL

It is all right on. The Bible is straight. If you are a son/daughter of God--live it. Watch your conduct scrupulously. Ask yourself the questions again. Now, go out and live like that. Good!