

## **To Please or Not To Please (1 Cor 10:25-11:1)**

- Paul told the Corinthians they were not to participate in the table of demons
- They were not to participate in the Lord's Table & the table of demons
- Here Paul address a different matter, a matter concerning Christian freedom
- How were they to face invitations to eat with pagans: were they to refrain?
- Paul established, idols are nothing & food sacrificed to them can't harm you
- Paul points us to the fact that our freedom in Christ has much to do with our heart

### **I. A Compass of Divine Principle (10:23-24)**

- Biblical principles: truths derived from Scripture but may not be clear commands
- Christ set us free (6:12) & Paul says all things are lawful (not immoral practices)
- The so called 'neutral' or gray areas in life which do not violate the commands
- Paul explains we are free from the legal demands & ceremonies of law (Rom 7:6)
- Having been set free from the law we are not to indulge in license as some were
- In other words, if we use our freedom to please self, we will hinder others (8:9)
- The governing principle must be to use my right to build up & to edify others (24)
- 3 key principles: 1) does it edify others 2) & build up 3) are others more important

### **II. The Right Course through These Unclear Waters (10:27-30)**

- v27 affirms the Corinthians could do anything without troubling their conscience
- It's not what goes into a man that defiles: it is always the heart that matters
- Paul applied this principle to the rich (2 Tim 6:17) food sacrificed to idols (v.26)
- All food is good because it comes from Him, therefore we can eat freely (v27)
- All things are given by God to us to enjoy, but there are conditions (vv28,29a)
- For the sake of your brother you are to forego your freedom (Rom 14:15-21)
- Paul warns against bowing to a false spiritual standard of self righteousness (29)
- If it is a matter not in violation of God's commands, why am I judged? says Paul
- However my brothers' & sisters' well being supersedes my own personal freedom

### **III. The Purpose or Goal of Such Principles (10:31-11:1)**

- Vs 31 Paul says it well, "whether you eat or drink, do it all to the glory of God"
- No matter how it pleases me or any one else, if it does not glorify God it is wrong
- Paul stresses the fruit of a right motive (31-33) his motive is one of love for all
- When I seek the good of others above myself people will see Christ not me