

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

1 Corinthians 10:25-30

Eating Without Harming Conscience

by Bob DeWaay

March 3, 2024

Eating From the Meat Market

1 Corinthians 10:25, 26 (CSB)

Eat everything that is sold in the meat market, **without raising questions for the sake of conscience**, since the earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it.

- 'Meat market' is only used here in NT
- Paul cites Psalm 24:1
- In this context there is no religious claim attached to such food whatever its source

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

1

Eating in the Unbelievers' Home

1 Corinthians 10:27 (CSB)

If any of the unbelievers invites you over and you want to go, **eat everything that is set before you, without raising questions for the sake of conscience.**

- OT rules (Exodus 34:15) differ from this
- Paul does not teach cloistured isolationism
- The next verse will deal with a possible scenario which would limit this freedom

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

2

A Statement About Source of Food

1 Corinthians 10:28 (CSB)

But **if someone says to you, "This is food from a sacrifice," do not eat it**, out of consideration for the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience.

- This verse is considered difficult with many questions arising
- It is not clear the status of 'someone'
- It is not clear whose conscience is in view
- Is there more than one Christian there?

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

3

Concern for Others Is Important

1 Corinthians 10:29 (CSB)

I do not mean your own conscience, **but the other person's**. For why is my freedom judged by another person's conscience?

- The main thrust from chapters 8-10 is that the well-being of others has priority
- The key truth is "love builds up" (8:1)
- Some propose using "self-awareness" here to translate *suneide_sis* (conscience)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

4

Eating With Thanksgiving Implies Valid Eating Before God

1 Corinthians 10:30 (CSB)

If I partake with thanksgiving, why am I criticized because of something for which I give thanks?

- It is not clear why Paul refers to himself
- He may be using a style of argument where he anticipates objections

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

5

Implications and Applications

- Believers may validly eat anything with thanksgiving
- How believers treat one another is of great importance

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

6

Receive Food With Thanks to God

1 Timothy 4:4-5 (ESV)

For **everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving**, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

- **Context: false teachers with doctrines of demons who reject foods and marriage (verses 1-3)**
- **Jesus declared all foods clean (Mark 7:19)**

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

7

Do Not Harm One Another

Romans 14:13, 14 (ESV)

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide **never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother**. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

8

Limit Personal Freedom if Necessary

Romans 14:15, 16 (ESV)

For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. **By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died**. So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

9

Fruit of Being Under the King

Romans 14:17 (ESV)

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

10