

## ***The Chief End of Man (10:23-11:1)***

- I. **Introduction**
  - A. What is the chief end of man? Modern view vs. Westminster SC
  - B. Outline of the sermon / Prayer
  - C. Review of the context
    - 1. A hypothetical letter written to Paul from Corinth
    - 2. Paul's strong prohibition against eating "idol-food"
  - D. But this does *not* refer to *ALL* circumstances / Read text
- II. **Loving others – particularly in the church (1 Cor 10:23-26, 32)**
  - A. *All things are lawful, but ...*
    - 1. We should appreciate our liberty, but not worship it
    - 2. Clement: *"Taking advantage of everything lawful can rapidly deteriorate into doing what is not lawful."*
    - 3. If we do not consider our brethren who may stumble at our freedom, even that which we consider harmless is sinful.
  - B. *Let no man seek his own good, but each his neighbor's good*
    - 1. This is an identifying mark of a Christian
  - C. An application of this right in the preaching of this message
    - 1. Romans 14:23
    - 2. Stand up for the Gospel, not your Christian freedom
    - 3. Discuss Christian freedoms in a charitable atmosphere or don't discuss them at all.
  - D. Paul does not bend to the legalists' desires (vs. 30)
- III. **Being an effective witness for Christ (1 Cor 10:27-30, 32-33)**
  - A. An actual situation in Corinth, and a hypothetical one
    - 1. Paul is very "unPharisaic" in his advice
  - B. Paul is concerned that the church be a witness (to a point)
    - 1. Go with the unbeliever, until they ask you to disobey God
    - 2. Paul's heart for the unbeliever is seen in how:
      - a. he permits the believer to go with the unbeliever
      - b. he does not want the believer to compromise in the presence of the unbeliever
  - C. Paul was concerned about not unnecessarily offending unbelievers
    - 1. Matthew 18:6 (the woe of being a stumbling block)
    - 2. It is a good thing to be of a good reputation toward those outside
- IV. **Living for the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31, 11:1)**
  - A. A summary of all of Paul's advice in chapters 8-10 on "idol food."
  - B. What does it look like to "eat and drink to the glory of God?"
    - 1. God's glory is advanced in the 'good fight' that progresses the Gospel, not in the fight for your personal rights
    - 2. J.R. Miller's quote
  - C. The unbeliever does not glorify God – God's glory is of no concern to him, in anything he does.
  - D. Follow Paul's (and others') example and live for God's glory