

From the beginning of Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians, he dealt with a myriad of sins in the Church @ Corinth:

There were contentions and strife in the church over preachers, there was sexual immorality in an active member of the church, (which was tolerated), and there were brethren taking each other to court to settle their disputes, when they should have been able to settle all of their disagreements with each other as brethren, and in the spirit of meekness.

And then, from this morning, Paul warned them to flee from the sin of idolatry!

BLUF: You can't be a worshiper of God and worshiper of the devil. You cannot love God and love the world; you cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils; you cannot be a partaker of the Lord's table and the table of devils.

Snapshot of Christianity today: 2 Kings 17:24-33

If that's what you're endeavoring to do in your Christian life, know that your idolatry; (fearing the LORD, and serving other gods) is offensive to God! You are provoking God, like the OT children of Israel after their exodus from Egypt in their journeyings toward the Promised Land.

(V22): "Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? (By partaking of things that we should not be participating in IN the world that are offensive to God?) Are we stronger than he?"

(V23): "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not"

Paul already used this reasoning to teach the saints at Corinth that sexual immorality was NOT something that they had liberty to partake of.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Fornication was COMMON in the city of Corinth just like it is today; idolatry was also COMMON in Corinth, (and although it may look different today), the sin of idolatry is alive and well in the world! These sins had permeated their society and so viewed, (even by the saints) as normal/natural/acceptable behavior.

What is COMMON in the saints at GFBC?

In Corinth, (C6) fornication was, it had infected the church; now in (C10) there as a danger of idolatry becoming COMMON among them.

There were those in the church who thought they were free (or, that they had liberty) to engage in fornication as Christians; if it gratified the flesh, it was ok, they had liberty to do it. Now in (C10), they thought themselves at liberty to go to an idol's temple and partake of the cup of devils, and then come to the house of God AND PARTAKE of the cup of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:21, James 3:11-12

We do have liberty in Christ, in things that are NOT forbidden by the commands of God, (in things indifferent), but what the Corinthians were doing here was not Christian liberty, it was sin against God.

Something "indifferent" is something that is neither good nor evil, and yet, even things that are NOT sinful in and of themselves can be made to be sinful; when they hurt and wound our brethren spiritually.

When Paul wrote: "All things are lawful unto me", he was NOT talking about (ANYTHING GOES), and things that are sinful and against the commands of the God. He was talking about "THINGS" that are not specifically forbidden in the Word of God.

But AGAIN, even when we do partake of, or DO "SOMETHING" that is not forbidden in the Word of God; the question for us needs to be: "Is it expedient?"

Is it helpful, profitable, and beneficial to your soul, and for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ?

And then, how does it look? Does it help or hurt the Name of Christ and the gospel? Does it offend/wound weaker brethren in Christ?

There are "Christians" in the world who tout their LIBERTY to do whatever they want to do.....and dare you tell them anything! You MIGHT INDEED have Christian liberty to do something, but IS what you're doing helping or hurting the cause of Christ in your brethren in Christ? 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Romans 14:13-21

If, after considering this you take your liberty anyway, (not caring that your brother/sister might be offended); NOW you are NOT walking charitably toward your brother/sister and your liberty has become sin.

(V23): "All things are lawful (or permissible) for me, but all things are not expedient (or profitable or beneficial); all things are lawful (or permissible) for me, but all things edify not" (or, all things do not strengthen faith in Christ in others)

(V24): "Let no man seek his own, but every man another' wealth"

Philippians 2:4-5, 21, Romans 15:1-3.