

Session 10: 1 Corinthians 10

Godly Actions vs. “Goodly” Actions

Paul to the Church at Corinth....

“You can’t have your cake and eat it too!”

**As a Christian who has been baptized in the Spirit....do we have the liberty to indulge in the pleasures of life?
What is the answer?**

Pleasure = good and bad!

“ratsah” = Hebrew meaning, “to be pleased with; set affection on; approve; delight

good = Psalm 149:4 “For the Lord takes delight (pleasure) in His people.”

bad = Proverbs 21:17 “He who loves pleasure will become poor...”

**“truphao”....Greek meaning; To live in luxury; indulgence of the body.
Bad... 1 Timothy 3:4“lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”**

Chapter 10:1-13, “*For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” ⁸ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹ We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. ¹¹ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”*

There were church members at Corinth that wanted to live in the world with sinners, sin in the world with sinners, and still desiring to be a church member with rights of:

- Being able to share in communion....the Lord's Supper;
- Being able to have say in the congregational decisions,
- Living like the world lives and have every privilege that any other saint has.

Isn't this just like some of our politicians....and preachers who think themselves above reproach.

Answering the question as to whether a particular discretion is a sin.....and the answer being, "Well, it depends on what the definition of 'is' is!"

Boy.....Doesn't the Lord want to regurgitate when he hears this?

Paul says...."I want you to learn a little history."

The children of God...the Israelites...possessed all the privileges God had for them; yet, in spite of them...they failed most miserably, most significantly. It wasn't just a mistake that received a hand slap...or 30 minutes in time-out. The punishment for Israel not appreciating the privileges God gave them...was death for many...thousands...and in some cases, a whole generation.

The history of Israel shows that people who enjoyed the greatest privileges of God were far from being safe from temptation. Paul reminded the Corinthians that special privilege is no guarantee whatever of security.

The temptations and failures Paul singles out were:

- **The temptation to idolatry.**

Although we don't worship idols so blatantly, if a man's god be that to which he gives all his time, thought and energy....then man worships the works of his own hands more than he worships God.

- **The temptation to fornication.**

So long as a man is a man there comes to him temptations from his lower self. Only a passionate love for purity can save him from impurity.

- **The temptation to try God too far.**

Consciously or unconsciously many a man treads on the mercy of God.

At the back of his mind there is the idea, "It will be all right; God will forgive."

It is at his peril that he forgets that there is a holiness as well as a love of God...that there is judgment to the point of wrath as well as the love of God.

- **The temptation to grumble.**

There are still many who greet life with a whine and a whimper instead of joy and a cheer.

Paul insists on the need of vigilance...of restraint...of holding on to the strong arm of the Lord.

“Let him who thinks he stands secure take care lest he fall.”

In Revelation 3:3...the risen Christ warns the Church of Sardis to be on the WATCH.

Paul concludes by saying three (3) things about temptation:

1. He is quite sure that temptation will come.

- Temptation is a part of life.
- The Greek word which we translate temptation means in most cases “a test.”

It is something designed, not to make us fall, but to test us, so that we emerge from it stronger than ever.

2. Any temptation that comes to us is not unique.

Others have endured it...and others have come through.

3. With the temptation there is always a way of escape.

Escape...Greek word here is “ekbasis” = meaning a way out...of a mountain pass.

The idea is like an army that is surrounded and suddenly there is an escape...a way to safety.

There is always a way out of temptation...it is not one of surrender of defeat...but a way of conquest in the power of the grace of God.

- **In chapter 10:1-13....Paul deals with those who declare that their Christian knowledge and privileged position make them quite safe from any infection.**
- ✓ *Paul cites the example of the Israelites who had all the privileges of God’s Chosen people and yet fell into sin.*

In chapter 10:14-22, “Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf. ¹⁸ Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? ¹⁹ Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord’s table and the table of demons. ²² Are we trying to arouse the Lord’s jealousy? Are we stronger than he?”

- **Paul uses the argument that any man who has sat at the table of the Lord cannot sit at the table of a heathen god and eating meat, even if that god be nothing.**

- ✓ There is something essentially wrong in taking meat offered to a false god upon lips that have eaten the body and blood of Christ.

This was a critical issue then....and even today. The Lord God....when we are taking the elements of the Communion Table wants us to “Remember.” We are to seriously consider what we are doing when we take the Lord’s Supper....

Paul was very adamant about making sure that we are clean and pure in our hearts...having our sins forgiven when we partake of the communion table.

In chapter 10: 23-26, “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴ No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. ²⁵ Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶ for, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”

- **Paul advises against being “overfussiness” concerning buying and eating meat in the local shops.**

He felt that a Christian can buy what meat is offered in the shops and ask no questions. Be real....but don’t cause yourselves to worry and fret over this issue.

You know....if we let our minds wonder...and let it debate itself as to what is right and wrong....sex in marriage might be a worry and a totally awful experience in lieu of a good thing that God ordained and declared to be beautiful.

Don’t dwell on the negatives.....know that God is good....and His mercy is everlasting!

Some people believe that the statement, “we were born in sin” means that the physical act that culminated in pregnancy was a sin. Far from truth..

Long before sin entered into the world, God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply.

“Be fruitful and multiply” didn’t mean to play in the soil and wish for a son and daughter. Sex is a good thing between man and woman....when they are married. Don’t ever forget it....Praise God.

- **In chapter 10: 27-28,** “If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience.”

Paul deals with the problem of what to do in a private house when meat is being offered to eat.

Paul’s advice:

- ✓ *In a private house, the Christian should eat what is put before him and ask no questions; but,*
- ✓ *If he is deliberately informed that the meat set before him is part of a heathen sacrifice, that is a challenge to his Christian position and he should refuse to eat it.*

Example: Dancing isn't a sin....but to some, it is in their way of thinking. While in a home of the one's that believe it is a sin, don't dance or suggest to dance. Don't be a stumbling block to those of whom we are to be an effective witness.

In contrast, there is an Eskimo tribe that believes in ultimate hospitality. To their invited guest (if male) the host invites him to sleep with his wife. It is a dishonorable thing to turn this offer down...it is saying, "I am not enjoying my stay at your home."

What to do....don't accept the offer to be a guest in the home of an Eskimo until you are assured his cultural background does not include the ultimate hospitality. And all you wives say a hearty.....all together now..... "AMEN!"

Chapter 10:29-33, *"I am referring to the other person's conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another's conscience? ³⁰If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for? ³¹So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³²Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— ³³even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved."*

- **Paul lays down the principle that the conduct of the Christian must be so far above reproach that it gives no possible offence either to the Jew or non-Jew (Gentile).**
- ✓ *The Christian is better to sacrifice his rights than to allow these rights to become an offence.*

Love your neighbor as yourself...but watch out about those cultural differences!!! Cumby 4 :21