

Freedom And Love

Hope Chapel Tokorozawa
1 Corinthians 10:13-33

“Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.” (1Corinthians 10:32-33, ESV)

Introduction

Sometimes people present 1 Corinthians 10:13 merely as a promise of God’s help in the face of temptation. But a closer look at the context in which Paul writes this reveals something more: God’s power to be witnesses of Christ also involves helping us to guard ourselves against temptation and sin which could make our lives obstacles to faith in Christ for other people. Yes, it is very true that we have received both freedom and love in Christ Jesus. But it is equally true that we have received ability and opportunity to lift Christ up in our lives and relationships so He can draw everyone we know to Himself that they, too, might be saved.

1. Be very wary of temptation that hinders evangelism and testimony. (vv.10-22)

a) God is faithful to help us follow Him in every circumstance.

b) Temptation is one—the other is condemnation--of Satan’s two greatest weapons against us.

2. Show and tell truth and love even to those who are ignorant of God. (vv.23-31)

a) Because God is our helper we can focus on what is helpful to our neighbor.

b) Remember to put love before liberty that you, too, can glorify God.

3. Seek peace with God and people that many would be saved. (vv.32-33)

a) Be careful that your lifestyle doesn’t keep someone away from God.

b) Remember that we who have the Son of God have eternal life, while others don’t.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) Read vv. 10-22 again. Why do we face temptation and how does God help us?
- 2) Read vv. 23-31 again. Why should our liberty be limited by the conscience of another?
- 3) Think about your relationships and lifestyle. Who might be drawn to God if you changed?

Conclusion:

Living as salt and light often means that we need to show and tell people how to distinguish between that which is good and evil by our choices, lifestyle and relationships.