

Week 18 LEADER Discussion Questions

Text: 1 Cor 10:23-11:1

Icebreaker: After many weeks of talking about it, it's time for the ultimate discovery: what's your favorite cut of meat? (Sorry, vegetarians!)

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out to you from the text or from the sermon you heard Sunday?

2. What do you think Paul means in verse 23 when he responds to this slogan of the Corinthians where they claimed certain freedoms or rights?
We use the ESV as our standard translation, but the NIV might be helpful here for grasping the meaning:

"I have the right to do anything,' you say—but not everything is beneficial...not everything is constructive."

He is essentially saying, "Ok, but just because something is 'lawful' or 'allowed,' doesn't mean you should do it." The speed limit might be 65, but when there's a lot of traffic or the road conditions are poor, it's best that you don't exercise your "right"!

Application: When have you given up a right or freedom to help another person, or when has someone done that for you?

3. How do you think Paul's guidance in verses 25-28 reflects the principle of seeking the good of a neighbor?

When eating at someone's home, the Corinthian believers should not make an issue of where the meat came from unless someone raises it as an issue, presumably because the person believes it would be sinful to eat it. The decision of whether to eat, then, is based on what's best for someone else.

Application: The details of the Corinthians situation are hard for us to relate to, but can you think of other situations in our lives today where believers might have different views on what's acceptable? (I bet you can! 😊)

What would it mean to seek the good of the other person in that situation?

4. Verses 31-33 sum up the matter related to food and idolatry that Paul has been addressing. What do these verses reveal about Paul's heart?

Paul's heart is to glorify God in every area of his life—even in eating and drinking! Part of glorifying God means that he seeks to love others so they

might be saved. Remember the Great Commandment's call to love both God and neighbor as though they're two sides of the same coin.

Application: From your answer to the first part of this question, what quality do you see in Paul that you would like to see grow in yourself?

5. "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." What does this suggest about the importance of Christian leadership and setting an example in life?

The example of others is powerful, whether good or bad. Paul's claim is not that he's perfect, but his life is the kind of life that others should follow—especially with regard to the issue of giving up rights for the good of others and the glory of God. The entire idea of Christian discipleship includes setting an example for others to follow and for us to follow the example of those who are ahead of us.

Application: How does this verse strike you? Is it something you'd feel comfortable telling others? Why or why not?