



Today's Message

Date: August 27, 2023
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *All for the Glory of God*

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:23–11:1 (ESV)

²³ “All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. ²⁵ Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁶ For “the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.” ²⁷ If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience— ²⁹ I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else’s conscience? ³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³ 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.

¹ Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Introduction: Paul presented a lengthy treatment of the subject of eating meat offered to idols. Though we seldom need to think about this specific activity, Paul demonstrated that a principle was at stake that every Christian must understand: The glory of God is the primary concern in all of our choices. Our text contains one of the most beloved verses in the Bible (10:31). But the context reveals that Christians too often quote the verse without understanding it.

I. Principle: Learn to care more about the well-being of others than your own freedom. 23-24

- A. Do not ask, “what *can* I do,” but “what *should* I do?” 23
- B. Concern for others determines the difference. 24

II. Application: Make choices that maintain a clear Christian testimony. 25-30

- A. Live “in this world,” enjoying God’s good gifts. 25-27
 - 1. Illustration 1: Regarding meat you buy. 25
 - 2. Biblical principle: Receive it all from the Creator with thanksgiving. 26
 - 3. Illustration 2: Regarding meat you are offered. 27
- B. Demonstrate that you clearly are not “of this world.” 28-30
 - 1. Limit your freedom for the sake of a consistent testimony. 28-29a
 - 2. Never give others an excuse to stumble. 29b-30

III. Motivation: Remember that the glory of God is at stake in all of your choices. 31-11:1

- A. Do everything for God’s glory . . . 31
- B. in the advance of the gospel . . . 32-33
- C. by mimicking Christ. 11:1

Today’s take-home truth: The glory of God is the Christian’s ultimate concern; it should define all our choices.