



“Stay Focused:” 1 Corinthians 6:12

October 6, 2013

Scripture Text: 1 Cor 6:12

For the last two weeks we have been dealing with the church of Corinth. Paul heard about the problems in Corinth while in Ephesus. It was getting so out of control a delegation came to where he was to get advice. Keep in mind that these are “church” people, the ones who are “supposed” to know God and His statutes.

In verses 1-8, Min. Rogers shared how to resolve issues with our brothers and sisters in Christ. He gave us some practical applications. We should:

- Exhaust all other options before even considering court (Matt 18).
- Not accept cultural norms.
- Stop taking issues to unsaved folks!!!
- Be willing to do the hard work of reconciliation and restoration that authentic Christian relationships require.
- Understand, embrace and act like the Church’s reputation is at hand or on the line!!!!

In verses 9-11, Min. Profit shared how to live out our new identity in Christ by recognizing:

- We are washed by regeneration.
- We are sanctified in Christ Jesus.
- We are justified in the name of Jesus Christ.

In today’s text, Paul has switched from the “*Oh, and another thing*” statement to “*now listen!*” I believe Paul is somewhat angry with the Corinthians at this juncture. Remember, Paul spent about 18 months teaching and preaching to this church. In a way this was his baby.

Apparently, the church had been **quoting** and **misapplying** the words “all things are lawful for me.” Some Christians in Corinth were excusing sins by saying:

- Christ has taken away all sin; therefore, there is complete **freedom** to live as we please.
- What we are doing is not **strictly** forbidden by scripture.

Paul answered both of these **excuses**:

- While Christ has taken away our sin, this does not give us freedom to go on doing what we know is wrong (1 Pe 3:18)
- Some actions are not sinful in themselves, but they are not appropriate because they can control our lives and lead us away from God.
- Some actions may hurt others. Anything we do that hurts rather than helps others is not right.

Let’s look at a few lawful but not necessary beneficial things!

1. Fashion & Clothing

- There is no, “Thou shall not weareth non fashionable clothes!” If what you are wearing is causing your brother or sister to **stumble**, “Houston we’ve got a problem!!”

*Likewise also that women should adorn themselves in **respectable** apparel, with **modesty** and **self-control**, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is **proper for women who profess godliness—with good works** (1Tim 2:9-10)*

2. Television & Movies

- Once again, there is no, “Thou shall not watch television!” We have the freedom to watch what programs we want, but at what cost?
- Studies have shown that the average American watches 40 plus hours of TV a week!

*I will not set before my eyes **anything that is worthless**. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. (Ps 101.3)*

3. Sports & Entertainment

- This is certainly not forbidden in scripture! But when your **family** is neglected, “Whoa Nelly!” God holds the family in high esteem!

4. Dating

- Nothing wrong with this at the beginning, but what about one month later, two months later, three months later . . . you get my drift.
- While the world’s view may be to date around as much as we want, the important thing is to discover the character of a person before making any commitment to him or her.

5. Work/Employment

- Working is a must (see 2 Thes. 3:10). However, one must be cautious of working too much.
- **Devotion** (being dedicated or loyal) is different from obsession (an unhealthy preoccupation)!
- Anything obsessed about, other than God, is an idol.

6. Rest & Relaxation

- Rest is a period or interval of inactivity, repose, solitude, or tranquility.
- To relax is to become loose or less firm, to have a milder manner, to be less stiff.
- Resting is not an excuse to be lazy (Gen 2:2-3).

“As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.” (Proverbs 26:14–15, ESV)

There are many more instances of lawful activity that are not necessarily beneficial, if over exerted. God has given us the ability to make a choice on some of these issues without spelling it out word for word.

Lawful and Beneficial

Life is a series of interconnected choices. The quickest way to your destiny is to choose correctly. A life committed to God’s commandments is a life of never ending benefits. So let’s take a look!

1. **Moral Law** – *The Ten Commandments* (Ex 20:1-17)

- If we can just work on keeping the Ten Commandments, how much better will our lives be? As you focus on them everything else will fall in place.
- CAUTION: Focusing on his commandments doesn’t mean life will get easier. But walking in obedience results in God’s grace and mercy versus walking in disobedience and eternal damnation.

2. **Prayer** - *“pray without ceasing,”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17, ESV)

- It is hard to come out of a quiet time with the Father and not be changed.
- Whatever may have caused you to get off track is pushed out and Christ’s love, kindness, gentleness, protection, and self-control is restored.

3. **Biblical Study** - *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”* (2 Timothy 3:16–17, ESV)

- Knowing what “thus sayeth the Lord,” can only come by you studying for yourself.
 - God has given us teachers and preachers to assist us. But you must spend time in His word to see what He has for you!
4. **Fellowship** - *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:24–25, ESV)
- No man or woman is an island to him or herself. This is not the movie Cast Away!
 - We need each other for strength, encouragement, and to make more disciples.
5. **Worship** - *“Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!”* (Psalm 99:5, ESV)
- This is a key element as you walk closer with the Father.
 - We were created to worship. During your time of worship the Father is smiling and is pleased.

In conclusion:

Paul was trying to get the church back on track. He understood what would happen if his guidance was not re-established. Paul exhorted the church to hold fast to two things as it relates to our liberties: 1) We should never partake in activities that cause our brother or sister to stumble. 2) If our choices lead to obsessive, addictive behavior, let it go. Preserving an eternal life is more important than satisfying a fleshly life.

Amen, and Amen!