

Handling Questionable Issues

Introduction: In 1 Corinthians chapters 8 to 10, Paul gives four basic principles to guide believers in making decisions about those questionable areas of a Christian's life.

1. Knowledge must be balanced by love. (1 Corinthians 8)
2. Authority must be balanced by discipline. (1 Corinthians 9)
3. Experience must be balanced by caution. (1 Cor. 10:1-22)
4. Freedom must be balanced by responsibility. (1 Cor. 10:23-33)

Knowledge Must Be Balanced By Love

1 Corinthians 8

Four positions regarding questionable issues:

1. Mature Participant - Clear conscience, good choices, no superior attitude.
2. Mature Non-Participant - Not a clear conscience for himself, but not condemning of others.
3. Immature Participant - Does whatever he pleases, not accountable to God or others.
4. Immature Non-Participant - Does not participate, condemns those who do.

Our actions should be based on ...

- A. Our relationship to God.
- B. Our responsibility to others.

NOTE: The stronger believer defers to the weaker believer in love only to help him mature, not to "pamper" him.

Experience Must Be Balanced By Caution

1 Corinthians 10:1-22

Two warnings: (Illustrated by the Nation of Israel)

1. Privileges are no guarantee of success.
2. Good beginnings don't guarantee good endings.

Freedom Must Be Balanced By Responsibility

1 Corinthians 10:23-33

Three responsibilities of the mature Christian:

1. To the immature Christian. (1 Cor. 10:23-30)
2. To glorify God in all we do. (1 Cor. 10:31)
3. To seek and to win the unsaved. (1 Cor. 10:32-33)

Questions To Ask About Questionable Issues

"All things are permissible, BUT..."

1. Will this lead to freedom or slavery? (1 Corinthians 6:12)
"Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything."
2. Will this make me a stumbling block or a stepping stone?
"Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall." - 1 Corinthians 8:13
3. Will this build me up or tear me down? (1 Cor. 10:23)
"Everything is permissible"—but not everything is constructive."
4. Will this only please me, or also glorify Christ? (10:31)
"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
5. Will this help me win the lost to Christ, or turn them away?
"I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved." - 1 Corinthians 10:33

Handling Questionable Issues

Introduction: In 1 Corinthians chapters 8 to 10, Paul gives four basic principles to guide believers in making decisions about those questionable areas of a Christian's life.

1. Knowledge must be balanced by _____. (1 Corinthians 8)
2. Authority must be balanced by _____. (1 Cor. 9)
3. Experience must be balanced by _____. (1 Cor. 10:1-22)
4. Freedom must be balanced by _____. (vs. 23-33)

Knowledge Must Be Balanced By Love

1 Corinthians 8

Four positions regarding questionable issues:

1. _____ - Clear conscience, good choices, no superior attitude.
2. _____ - Not a clear conscience for himself, but not condemning of others.
3. _____ - Does whatever he pleases, not accountable to God or others.
4. _____ - Does not participate, condemns those who do.

Our actions should be based on ...

A. Our _____ to God.

B. Our _____ to others.

NOTE: The stronger believer defers to the weaker believer in love only to help him mature, not to "pamper" him.

Experience Must Be Balanced By Caution

1 Corinthians 10:1-22

Two warnings: (Illustrated by the Nation of Israel)

1. Privileges are no guarantee of _____.
2. Good beginnings don't guarantee good _____.

Freedom Must Be Balanced By Responsibility

1 Corinthians 10:23-33

Three responsibilities of the mature Christian:

1. To the _____ Christian. (1 Cor. 10:23-30)
2. To _____ in all we do. (1 Cor. 10:31)
3. To seek and to win the _____. (1 Cor. 10:32-33)

Questions To Ask About Questionable Issues

"All things are permissible, BUT..."

1. Will this lead to freedom or slavery? (1 Corinthians 6:12)
"Everything is permissible for me" –but I will not be mastered by anything."
2. Will this make me a stumbling block or a stepping stone?
"Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall." - 1 Corinthians 8:13
3. Will this build me up or tear me down? (1 Cor. 10:23)
"Everything is permissible" –but not everything is constructive."
4. Will this only please me, or also glorify Christ? (10:31)
"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
5. Will this help me win the lost to Christ, or turn them away?
"I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved." - 1 Corinthians 10:33