DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

1 Corinthians 10:31
2-18-2024

Introduction:

What is the Believer's overall guiding principle for determining how he/she should live?

The Ultimate Question is:

Will it GLORIFY GOD?

The sole purpose for man's existence is to glorify God.

**** The overruling principle that should guide our attitudes and actions must be: "Do all to the Glory of God"***

I. **The Principle of Glorifying God governs the Christian Liberty areas of our life**
("Whether therefore…")

II. **The Principle of Glorifying God governs the Mundane areas of our life**
("eat or drink..")

III. **The Principle of Glorifying God governs Each Individual area of our life**
("Whatsoever ye do…")

IV. **The Principle of Glorifying God governs Every area of our life**
("Do All to the glory of God")

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9-3-2023

Introduction:

* **When facing a decision about whether or not we should do some thing we need to ask ourselves the right questions!**

Some General Guidelines for determining our actions & attitudes from 1 Corinthians 10:

1. *If I do this...*
Will it <u>ASSOCIATE</u> me with evil? (vv.16-22)

What's the point of verses 16 - 22? It is simply this: Just as sharing in the Lord's Supper associates the eater with Christ, and just as sharing in the meat on the Temple altar associates the eater with the Temple -- in the same way one who shares in eating things from a pagan altar is associating with that demonic altar and all it represents.

Anything which would <u>associate</u> me with the <u>world</u> (or worldliness), <u>evil</u>, <u>rebellion</u>, etc., is wrong for me to be involved with.

"You are known by the company you keep." You become associated with them.

We guard our language, dress, appearance, diet, recreation, etc., because we <u>don't</u> want to be <u>associated</u> with the world or evil.

Our identity is with Christ; therefore any behavior, attitude, activity, or place which would detract from our Christ-likeness should be shed like a leprous garment.

2. *If I do this...*
Will it <u>BUILD ME UP</u> in the Faith? (v.23)

"Lawful" - Perhaps referring to Roman law; the laws of the land may allow something, but this does not make it right. (There is <u>no</u> civil law against foul language, adultery, pre-marital sex, viewing x-rated videos at home, being arrogant, etc., but none of these things are profitable for the Christian.)

"All things are lawful" - If the reference is to God's Law, Paul is saying, "In the realm of <u>non-moral</u> issues, all things are lawful."

"Expedient" - beneficial, advantageous, profitable, useful.

If it does not benefit us spiritually, physically, or emotionally, and/or if it does not benefit the cause of Jesus Christ, it is <u>not</u> for us to waste our life on!

--The question is <u>not</u> merely "How does it hurt me?" The question should be "How does it help me?"

--Our concern is <u>not</u> merely whether or not it is negatively sinful, but we should consider whether or not it is positively good.

Whatever we spend our time on, we are actually exchanging a part of our life for. We are actually giving part of our life up for it. What we live for, we are actually dying for. So if it isn't worth dying for, it isn't worth living for.

"Edify" - (akin to "edifice") - speaks of that which builds one up.

--If the practice will not advance my life spiritually, I should not spend my life on it.

--If the practice will not enhance my walk with Christ or draw me closer to God, perhaps I should reconsider doing it.

The question is not merely "Does it tear me down?" The question is: "Does it build me up?"

3. *If I do this...* Will it be HELPFUL to others or purely SELFISH for me? (v.24)

Is what I am doing purely self-centered or selfish? Or did I consider the ramifications my choices and decisions will have on others? Will my decision have a positive impact on my spouse, children, fellow-Christians?

Phil. 2:4 - *"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."*

(SEE Romans 15:1-3)

4. *If I do this...* Will it CONFUSE the CONSCIENCE of others? (v.25-30)

V. 25
"Shambles" - meat market

"Asking no questions" - Such as, "Do you know if this meat was ever offered to an idol?" (what you don't know won't hurt you or anyone else in such cases)

V. 26

What exactly might have happened to the meat between the cow and the market was not to be a fussy matter to be over-scrupulous about. The point is, it has its source in God and is okay to eat. If God gave it to you, eat it and give Him thanks (cp. I Tim. 4:4).

V. 28

"For the earth is the Lord's. . ." - Paul repeats this truth for the second time (cp. v. 26) to show now that, if anyone chooses not to eat (for conscience's sake) he will not starve, for God has much more to give to him ("He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, the wealth in every mine").

The point is this: Whatever you choose to give up for the sake of others, God is sure to replace it, because he owns all.

V. 29

We should never knowingly do anything that would violate the conscience of another [i.e. something that might be construed as sin in us might lead them to sin and violate their conscience.]

Areas of Christian liberty should never be abused so as to violate the conscience of another believer.

V. 25-30

If an unbeliever or weak brother sees in a strong believer's actions a moral or doctrinal compromise, such may lead that person to justify his own deviant actions.

Paul is not calling on us to project false appearances. He is not saying that we should appear to be something we are not (Jesus rebuked this hypocrisy - Mt. 6:2-16; Mt. 23:2b). Rather, Paul is saying we should not appear to be something that we are not. We should not convey a false impression.

As Paul said to the Romans, *"Let not your good be evil spoken of"* (Rom. 14:16).

5. *If I do this...*
Will it STUMBLE any non-believer or Christian? (v.32)

"Give none offense" - Don't do anything which will hurt, harm, cause injury, or stumble anyone else.

If one person falls into sin or descends into hell because they stumbled over some inconsistency in your life, you will answer to God for that!

"Jews" - national Israelites

"Gentiles" - Greeks

"The church of God" - believers

No matter what nationality or ethnic background, no matter what religious background, no matter whether lost or saved -- we should never be a stumbling block to them.

May nothing in our lives ever be an obstacle to the salvation of any sinner or to the edification of any saint!

Jesus paid taxes so as not to offend the tax collectors, though He is Lord of all the earth and people should have paid tribute and taxes to Him (Mt. 17:27 - *"Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.)*.

Jesus said: *"And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea."* (Mk. 9:42).

6. *If I do this...*
Will my <u>EXAMPLE</u> be one that others can follow? (v.33,11:1)

V. 33

Although Paul did not accommodate his message to please men (cp. Gal. 1:10), he did seek their spiritual pleasure or welfare (Gromacki, p. 130).

Although most people live for selfish pleasure (regardless of what their actions might do to others), Paul's life was one characterized by unselfish love for others.

He lived in such a way so as to never do anything which might hinder the Gospel.

What are you willing to change about your life that others might be saved?

11:1

This verse is really the conclusion to chapter 10.

Paul sought to pattern his life after Christ's earthly example, Who relinquished His rights to certain privileges so that He could never be misunderstood or held in contempt.

Paul says model, mimic, imitate, or copy me to the degree that I model Christ. Is your life truly Christ-like? Are you worth modeling?

Titus 2:7-8 says that you young men should *"In all things [be] shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing incorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."*

What kind of <u>example</u> are you setting?

Do you want your kids to follow in your steps?

**** What is the Believer's overall guiding principle for determining how he/she should live?***

The Ultimate Question is:

Will it <u>GLORIFY GOD</u>?

"The glory of God" - We ought to do everything so that God would shine; that He would be magnified; that His principles, precepts, and program would be credited, praised, and honored.

What does it mean to glorify God?
Does He shine (in the minds of men) as a result of my attitudes or actions.

What is so often man's guiding (motivating) factor?
--What will bring <u>me</u> the most pleasure, in the quickest way possible, for the longest duration.

The sole purpose for man's existence is to <u>glorify</u> God.

"To know God and to glorify Him forever"

You were <u>created</u> to glorify God.
You were <u>saved</u> to glorify God.

The degree to which we glorify God reflects the degree to which we fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

**** The overruling principle that should guide our attitudes and actions must be: "Do all to the Glory of God"***

I. The Principle of Glorifying God governs the <u>Christian Liberty</u> areas of our life

("Whether therefore…")

Note the previous context of areas of liberty that believers are conscientious about for the sake of weaker brothers.

ILLUS: The time Scott Berry and I asked Bill Gothard Sr. a question about whether or not a certain network marketing program would be wise to participate in. he responded with the simple yet profound question: "Would God be glorified?"

II. The Principle of Glorifying God governs the <u>Mundane</u> areas of our life

("eat or drink..")

Mundane – common to man. Relating to, characteristic of, or concerned with commonplaces; Matters ordinary to humans (like eating or drinking).

There ought not to be a distinction between the <u>secular</u> and the <u>sacred</u> for the Christian, for "all ground is holy ground."

Many things we may view as insignificant are important to our testimony and reputation.

We should not have a "legalistic spirit" but should evaluate everything we do.

The "little" things; Even the details of daily life; From the clothes we wear to the music we listen to;

III. The Principle of Glorifying God governs <u>Each Individual</u> area of our life

("Whatsoever ye do…")

"Whatsoever" - Includes every activity we do; every place we go; everything we partake of.

"Do <u>all</u>" - Nothing excluded;

--Does my <u>attitude</u> toward my children or spouse today glorify God?
--Are my <u>thoughts</u> glorifying God?
--Will this <u>decision</u> glorify God?
--Will this <u>purchase</u> glorify God?
--Is my <u>language</u> glorifying God?
--Are my <u>actions</u> glorifying God?

Should any area of our lives be "off limits" to God?

If not, then we should not mind if He has front row seats to every activity we do!

IV. The Principle of Glorifying God governs <u>Every</u> area of our life

("Do All to the glory of God")

When making choices, which choices would bring the most glory to <u>God</u>?

God is glorified when we make . . .
--The <u>right</u> choice (a decision based on righteousness as revealed in Scripture)

--The <u>unselfish</u> choice (a decision based on how others, not merely self would be benefited)

--The <u>difficult</u> choice ((difficult due to the <u>effort</u> required; difficult due to the low <u>popularity</u> of the choice)

Is God glorified by divorce?
Is God glorified by mistreating your spouse or children?
Is God glorified by dishonesty?
Is God glorified by laziness?
Is God glorified by His people viewing wickedness? (on TV, pornography, etc.)
Is God glorified by gossip?
Is God glorified by poor performance on the job?

A question which should be continually popping up in our minds throughout every minute of every day is the question, "Does this glorify God?"

To glorify God, you must have a right view of self and a right view of God. You must have…

1) Humility – To humbly acknowledge Him as the giver of life, talents, opportunities, and blessings.
The proud do not glorify God. We cannot glorify self and God at the same time.

2) Dependency – In the power of the flesh, no one glorifies God. It is only as He evidently (in an obvious way) works in us and through us that He receives glory.
Such dependency involves trust; a moment-by-moment walk of faith. Phil. 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ…"

--Who do you give the credit to for the successes of your life?

--How do you handle applause?

--Where do we want the spotlight to shine?

--Where do we want the credit to go?

Herod Agrippa was judged because in the moment of opportunity when he should have denied the people's acclaim of deity to him, he did not. "He gave not God the glory."

[NOTE: If the greatest thing we can do is glorify God, then the greatest sin is to steal His glory for ourselves]

Note: Acts 12:20-24-Acts 12:20-24

And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country. [21] And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. [22] And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. [23] And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost. [24] But the word of God grew and multiplied.

NOTE: V. 23 - "He gave not God the glory."

The word "glory" refers to the radiance or brilliance that shines from the one who has it. In secular Greek, it referred to high reputation, praise, fame, honor, and power (DNTT, p. 44).

Herod, by not giving God the glory, stole it for himself.

Even as Christians, we may be tempted at times to steal glory that belongs to God, but this does <u>not</u> mean that we must give in.

EX: Peter, when bowed down to and worshipped by Cornelius, said, "Stand up; I myself also am a man."

EX: Paul, after surviving a venomous snake bite, was called "a god" by the barbarians of Malta, yet he did not accept any such notion (Acts 28:6).

EX: In Acts 14, after healing a crippled man at Lystra, the people cried out "The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men" (v. 11). They prepared to sacrifice. Note Paul's response: Acts 14: 14-15 - "Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, And saying, Sirs why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein."

Herod should have rebuked them for calling him "god."

Josephus says that : "Upon this [their calling him god], the king did neither rebuke them, nor reject their impious flattery" (Ant. XIX, 8.2.)

By not rejecting the glory, Herod in effect accepted it.

God, however, says: "I am the LORD (YAHWEH - the eternal "I AM"): that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another" (Is. 42:8; cp. Ex. 3:15; Ps. 83:18).

"I will not give my glory unto another" (Is. 48:11).

Satan fell because he sought the glory that only belonged to God (READ Is. 14:9-15).

He still tries to offer worldly glory (Mt. 4:8).

God, however, says that we are not to seek glory from men (Mt. 6:2; I Thes. 2:6).

"Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory" - Phil. 2:3.

"Let us not be desirous of vain glory" (Gal. 5:26).

God commands us not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (Ro. 12:3).

When God saves a soul through your testimony, where do you want the credit to go?

--The intellect, talents, and abilities you have -- where did they come from? Then who should received the glory? I Cor. 4:7 - "For who maketh thee to differ from another . . ."

--Where did your title or position come from?

John the Baptist testified: "A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from Heaven" (Jn. 3:27)

It is said of the O.T. high priest: "No man taketh this honor unto himself" (Heb. 5:4).

Never forget your place under God! We are mortal, He is immortal; we are sinners (saved by grace), He is the Savior!

"Blessed Be the Name" - Hymn Vs.# 1 "All praise to Him who reigns above in majesty supreme, who gave His Son for man to die, that He might man redeem!

Vs. # 2 - "His name above all names shall stand, exalted more and more, at God the Father's own right hand, where angel hosts adore!"

--Do you want to leave your impression on others, or God's impression?

--Are you interested in guarding your reputation, or God's?

--Do you do what you do so that God would be praised and honored, or yourself? If you serve (minister) for your glory, for the applause of men, for a pat on the back, you will only serve as long as you're getting these rewards. But if you serve for God's glory, the "gates of Hell" shall not prevail against you!

Two times Paul had to tell the glory-seeking Corinthians, who tended to "measure themselves by themselves" (II Cor. 10:12), "he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord" (I Cor. 1:31; II Cor. 10:17).

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: [24] But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.

Paul said, "God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal. 5:14).

Hymn - "To God be the glory, great things He hath done..."

CONCLUSION:

Today we need to ask God to purify our motives.

To reveal our selfish tendencies. To weed out any desires for self-glory.

Whatever you do, do all to the "glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31).

Do all so that He would receive the honor, recognition, and praise.

How can we glorify God?

1. Praising Him

   "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me" (Ps. 50:23)

2. Calling upon Him

   When trouble comes, God delivers us (when we call upon Him) so that we would glorify Him (Ps. 50:15 - "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me."

3. Shining for Him

   By letting our light shine and doing good works, God will be glorified.

   Will others have a better view of God by the picture they see of His working in our lives? (Mt. 5:16 - *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*).