



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 27 Liberty for Love – Living to the Glory of God!
By Pastor Jody May 11/02/2025

1 Corinthians 1:25 – For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense – *“God’s Wisdom over man’s pride through a Flawed Church.”*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 ESV

Do All to the Glory of God

²³“All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. ²⁴Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. ²⁵Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁶For “the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.” ²⁷If 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. ²⁸But 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— ²⁹I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else’s conscience? ³⁰If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

³¹So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³²Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

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

Pastor – “People of God, this is the Word of God.”
People – “Thanks be to God.”

Pray

Illustration



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If you watch a football game long enough you will eventually see someone score a touchdown and then you may see someone complete the sign of the cross, kiss their knuckles, and point to the sky. This for some guys is giving God the Glory for the great things they had just done. Now while I appreciate the gesture, and I am sure that some of those young men are Christians, but I think for the most part it has just become an item of fashion to point to God and say, "Yeah you know there must be God for I am SOOOO good!" While for many of those young men, while they are pointing to God for their skills, have lifestyles and rap sheets that would make you blush if I read them right now to you. It takes more than a television spot to bring glory to God, it takes a lifestyle change, a heart change, and a change of mind.

Introduction

Giving God Glory comes about not as an afterthought after some great achievement, but it comes from forethought before one ever does anything. It comes from the person that takes in how they live their lives, how they use their freedoms earned by God, to bring Appreciation, Adoration, Affection, & Subjection on the one that has done so much for them already. If we really want to bring Glory to God then that requires the work of **FORETHOUGHT**, **thinking about it before you do it**, and it requires **ALL areas of your life**. Not just the things that are public, that get seen, that who your worth.

Because what happens family, when pastors get honor for their preaching, when song leaders get praised for their music in the church, when church workers are adored because of their tireless work and labor? Many times, we have seen that lead to an abuse of position. Many times, because someone gets praise for a God given gift, they tend to start believing they are above reproach. How many men and women of God have you seen, that have given God all the glory in their public acts, only to be found out that their private lives were a wreck. Being praised for a good thing is not necessarily giving God Glory.

So how do we protect ourselves from false humility? How do we protect ourselves from the dangers of self-idolatry? How do we protect ourselves from spiritual gullibility that says since people praise me for _____ that



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must mean I really am special? It all starts with the forethought, it all starts with setting out ON giving God Glory, and it all starts with the idea that Glory should be given in all areas of our lives not just the public but the private as well. It is the **audience of one** in which we are to be concerned!

Today we will address this issue for as you will see you were made for this, for it IS the Christians joy, pleasure, and command to bring God Glory (5 step process)! First, we will look at the guiding **Principle** that is **guided by love** in all we do. Then we will observe the **Practice** that is how to **engage** with the **Secular World**. Next, we will then view the **Aim** of what we are all looking to do, **Glorifying God in All** things. That then will take us into the **Strategy** of how to **please others**, so we don't go off the rails of self-deception. Then lastly that gives us the **Pattern** we must **emulate**; we don't fret for God left us a template in which to follow.

MP:

Freedom serves love for God's Glory and Other's Salvation.

1. The Principle: Binding our Liberty by Love.

²³"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.

"All things are lawful". Ok right up front that should either terrorize you, or interest you, and perhaps for some (hopefully not for any in this room) that may be stimulating to think about. It is a phrase already quoted in 6:9 and cautioned about in 8:9 *"But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block for the weak."* And here in Chp. 10 Paul finally provides the principle after the Dire warning of chapter 10 in verses 1-22, which was all about Idolatry.

Coming at the end of his dire warning here is where we land: That which we are to desire over personal freedoms is the building up of other people!

²⁴ Let no one **seek** his own good, but the **good** of his **neighbor**.



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The problem that Paul is revealing to us through the Corinthians, is that the finish line is **NOT freedom but edification**. Our lives are not about how do we make it better for our personal self now. Rather, *the moral vector of liberty points outward in love, not inward to self.*

In the immortal words of [Professor Ian Malcom](#), “They were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn’t stop to think if they should.” Or as your mom use to say, “Just because your friends are jumping off a bridge you don’t have to go in jumping after them!” (although growing up in Fl. that was always a real threat of which you can’t ignore the taunts of your buddies). Liberty with no thought towards others is always a dangerous game, and it almost always leads to injury, because the desires of our hearts come from a soul that desires self-worship all the time (see last two sermons on 1 Cor 10).

Illustration - For example, I have counseled with men in the past who have asked me if it was ok to go to lunch with a female friend and that comes always with a two-point answer. While there is nothing that says you can’t I always tell them it’s like jumping off that bridge after your buddies, there are dangers you cannot see, and you won’t find it until you jump, and by then you have broken your neck. While the opposite sexes can be friends, they SHOULD NOT pursue friendship making activities alone, when already in an active covenanted marriage. The giving and receiving of emotional care always builds in a person a bigger heart for the other of which usually one will most likely respond, just ask Steven Lawson.

Freedom serves others it doesn’t take for its’ own gain...

Engage not your neighbor with the view of “Well it should be ok to do this so, _____” instead engage all your relationships with, “This would be best for this person in the pursuit of Christ!” Let’s make sure to Bind our Liberty with Love.

2. The Practice: Engaging with the Secular.

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.”



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Now Paul goes right back and does what many pastors don't like to do say, "well *hey you're right about this.*" He's not conceding a point though, he just points out what is right in their thinking. See folks when you are building principles on God's Word you don't have to fear what is good, you just have to remember the principle: **we use freedom for edification.** So, Paul wants to affirm something to the Corinthians because he doesn't want them to become legalistic. This public letter was also an opportunity to correct some of the church members in Corinth over their fear of meat (because overzealous fear mongering and rule following causes just as much destruction in a church as free grace abusers). He uses **Psalm 24 to edify all** (26), for remember God's Word is profitable for teaching, rebuking and correcting (2 Tim 3:16).

Psalm 24:1-4 ESV

Of David. A psalm.

- ¹The **earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,**
the world, and all who live in it;
²for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.
³Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
⁴The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

The earth and everything in it are the Lord's **because He made it!** And who may use the earth's goodness (24:3)? **Those that are righteous,** (clean hands and pure heart) **the saved! And what does that show? You are NOT and idolater!** So, Paul is look, you all can eat the meat, it's God's, stop fretting about it, and when you're conscious is clean about it, it shows you worship the one true God! Thank goodness for I was planning a trip with the boys to the Brazilian Café next week!

²⁷If 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



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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—

OK so feel free to eat meat, UNLESS someone offers it to you and then says, ‘Hey btw, this has been offered to idols’, that speaks to their belief about its’ defilement. If they warn you about it then it is good to act in such a way to respect their warning, for their belief is not the same as yours. You can damage the testimony of God by engaging in liberty when the lost view it as unrighteous or unholy. Again **your freedom should serve towards the Salvation of others, freedom is for edification.** Let us Bind our Liberty in Love...

²⁹ I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else’s conscience?

So, Paul clarifies you’re right, your conscience is not in jeopardy by your eating, but theirs is, **love always yields a right off way.** (remember the traffic analogy)

³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

We want to, at all costs, stay away from circumstances that denounce our standing in front of lost people!

Now that does not mean we have to endure slander every time someone cries intolerance at the drop of a hat, because we do something they don’t like.

The action that Paul is describing is always directed towards another’s Salvation, **that which will clarify and bolster one’s testimony.** For the person that is considerate and doesn’t want to put a Christian in harm’s way, we respect that opinion, and if for some reason it is legalistic on their end to think in such a way, we wait till a later time to engage them with truth.

For others who don’t like **hearing a truth already proclaimed** like abortion is murder OR sex is intended for marriage between opposites sexes, or being Vegan is a sin 😊, those hot button topics of today’s culture, people already



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know the truth you believe. If you were to be quiet when they yell 'shut up!' then that leads them away from Salvation, for there is no distinguishing between us and the world. As Ephesians 4:13 "speak the Truth in Love."

To love is not to offend when the world is trying to be nice to us for a perceived belief.

AND

To love is also not to back down when they are screaming for your silence over a truth they already know!

Our liberties should always lead us to helping someone **towards Salvation!** Whether that comes from being nice in their concern over bringing us into their life choices or whether that comes from concern over making sure you stick to the truth of scripture even when they are already mad about it. (example of my old school kids cursing me out over classroom rules). Let us make sure to bind our Liberty with Love.

3. The Aim: Glorifying God in All Things.

³¹So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Paul has already given as the reason as to this new slogan that should be picked up by the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20 ESV

You are not your own, ²⁰for you were **bought with a price**. So glorify God in your body.

Ok so I know what you're thinking already, and so I will go ahead and say it.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism starts with this Question and Answer:

1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, ¹and to enjoy him forever. ²

1 - Psalm 86; Isaiah 60:21; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 6:20, 31.



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2 – Psalm 16:5-11; Psalm 144:15; Isaiah 12:2; Luke 2:10; Philippians 4:4; Revelation 21:3-4.

Now I just got to say as True as that is, the WSC starts off a little short for the **Baptist Catechism** starts with something else I think is more important:

1. Who is the first and chiefest being?

A. God is the first and chiefest being.¹

1 – Isaiah 44:6; 48:12; Psalm 97:9

Of course, [Benjamin Keach](#) should have added in Q1 from the WSC after his question 1. But Keach is right because man was bought with a price, (1 Cor 6:20) that makes God the chief of beings, THEREFORE you are to glorify Him! You were redeemed from the devil, death, and destruction, you owe Him everything! Paul has used **replacement theology** if you will, He replaces, “All is Lawful”, with “Do all to the Glory of God.”

The best people to go to, to understand this proposed life aim by Paul, is probably the Puritans of the 1600s. [Thomas Watson](#) stands out, for he writes about it in his famous commentary on the WSC, *The Body of Divinity*.

Watson says that “glorifying God consists in four things: 1: Appreciation, 2. Adoration, 3. Affection, 4. Subjection. This is the yearly rent we pay to the crown of heaven.” As we appreciate God, worship him alone (adoration), love and delight in him (affection), as well as obey him in all things (subjection), we give him glory.¹

To be able to glorify God, there is NO WAY we can recklessly indulge our liberties. If our chief aim is to live for God so we may show off God, then what must happen is that the world needs to see a totally alternate way of making decisions.

Illustration – Look, most of us recognize this to a partial degree. The first time we fell in love in a relationship that was committed to marriage, how did we make choices? Well for starters you may have never been good at

¹ <https://derekzishmawy.com/2015/06/02/seventeen-ways-to-aim-at-gods-glory-a-puritan-listicle/>



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manners but when a man finds a woman that can actually cook you will never hear the end of his **appreciation** for a good meal. Or we realize that thing we really like to do, shopping or watching the game with the guys, you surrender that for the one you **adore**. Or all of the sudden you become obsessed with texting good night on the phone or spending too much time looking for a meme/giph that says *I love you*, because someone has your **affections**. Then lastly, when that special someone asks a favor, you will move everything in your calendar to make that happen, that is you **subject** yourself to their wishes. Thos actions tell all the friends around you that someone has sucked up the air around you, has taken out major space in your life, that is called glory. Your action towards that new love declares their glory to your family and friends!

Now family I ask you, does Jesus have that space in your heart? Does He have to wonder if you love Him, does He see it in your sacrifices for Him, does He see it in how you love your family in the church, does He see it in your obedience to His commands in His Word!? Family living to the Glory of God alone, that **aim**, is to say that your love of Christ will not just touch your intellect when you think about Him, but that it is displayed in all of your depravity as worship of Jesus begins to overcome all of your created being. Where nothing is withheld from His service, that is living to the Glory of God alone!

Freedom serves Love for God's Glory and when the world sees that displayed it is the lure that God's uses to woo them towards a Salvific event!

4. The Strategy: Pleasing Others for Their Salvation.

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.

What is the strategy? **Give no offense**. Give no offense is the flipped side of the coin that is, **live all to God's Glory**. Now we already touched on the first part of this principle back in vs. 25-30 of which is: if they think it's taboo you stay away from it, if they don't like what God has to say on something, you



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don't apologize for it. But what this principle is laying out here is just how much time Paul spends in his concern over his Christian witness.

Paul always recognizes 3 different audiences, distinct cultures when he comes to town. He has the Hellenized Jews which are Jews that live out the customs of his people even though they are not near temple life. Then you have the Gentiles which are pagans, that don't have any knowledge of the true God until you start to teach them. Then you have the church, which was made up of converted Jews and Gentiles, people with and without the prior knowledge of God, which are now being transformed by the Gospel. All three groups Paul is constantly trying to live as one of them aware of their need to see God rightly.

Now you may be saying at this point, PJ this sounds like you are placing a yoke on me I don't want, are you telling me that I am to live life concerned all the time about my witness in this world? **YES!** Let me ask you a question in return, are you telling me that the one that has redeemed you for His glorious purposes that you don't want what He wants, to win over the lost and increase the Glory of God!? Let me put it to you this way, why do you have air in your lungs if not to do this very thing?

The evangelistic horizon governs our use of liberty.

Paul says he seeks no advantage for his life, but that he seeks the advantage of many for the purpose of their Salvation. That is not just the Apostolic thing to do, that is the mission of the church family. Freedom to love God serves the lost person, so we are required to use that advantage for them not us. **The purpose of our life to bring God glory, the path of that calling to make disciples, the fuel for that pursuit is our liberties in Christ.**

5. The Pattern: Imitating Paul as He Imitates Christ.

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

Last thing here is how do we learn it, and that family is where we can thank God for, we have a great example! The first and greatest example of that pattern is Christ. It was Jesus who fled idolatry and divided loyalties; He



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refused Satan, He cleansed the temple, He withdrew to pray, in all things He guarded His heart, we imitate Christ in this way.

He used His freedoms to edify not alienate. He paid His taxes (Mat 17:24-27), He restrained His men from violence in their lives, and He restrained His will and subjected Himself to a death on a cross. Everything that Christ did was to win His lost sheep and, in every way, we should focus on this as well. Not to do so would be to proclaim that Jesus was not good enough to earn our worship. That which we worship is that which we glorify, my friends are you ready to glorify Jesus yet? Are you ready to temper your liberties in the edification of others? Are you ready to use your freedoms to display your love for Christ?

[CALL TO OBEY]

1. We glorify God by an ingenuous confession of sin.

1 John 1:10 ESV

If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and His word is not in us. By confessing sins to one another it acknowledges that He is Holy and righteous, and that we recognize that sin does not belong in my life and that it does no good in edifying those around me. Where there is confession there is the admittance that one needs God and that is glorifying Him.

2. We glorify God by being content with His Providence.

Philippians 4:11 ESV

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content.

Just like Paul as we should seek to imitate the man imitating Christ, in storm or in calm, he learned to be content in all things. Wherever God's Providence took him was an opportunity to live out the Gospel, so whether in danger, sickness, or fear of death Paul glorified God by not bemoaning the circumstances that got him there. To do so would miss an opportunity to live for His name.



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3. We glorify God by standing up for His Truths.

1 Corinthians 16:13 ESV

¹³ Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

We glorify God when we don't back down from the screeching, gas lighting, and slandering of those that don't like the Truth about God. This is a reminder that along with liberty comes the responsibility not to shirk way from standing for God and truth. When we stand we add credibility to the message of the Bible, and we show we actually believe it.

MP:

Freedom serves love for God's Glory and Other's Salvation.

Family, let us seek to Glorify God together corporately as a church by practicing the confession of sin to one another, by praising God in all areas of life, and standing up for the Truths we find in His Word! I commend to you today Highlands, ***whatever you do, do all to the Glory of God.***

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. Our Lord lived a perfect existence in our stead, with the forethought that in all He would do He would bring Glory to His Father. We remember His life that has become the blueprint for our lives. That even when riding into Jerusalem before His death, His public cry magnifying His private life was, for



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His *Father to glorify Himself* and then trusted His Father as He was led to the slaughter. Praise be to Him for His commitment to the Father!

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. Remember Him and thank Him for those times before you knew Him, when you tried to create glory for yourself. Remember and thank Him for the times after you got know Him when you tried to get glory off His name. Remember and be strengthened again, because the forgiving power in His blood never loses its power to forgive you. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – **“Christians, what do we believe?”** Congregation – recites:

LBCF 1689 Chapter 21 Of Christian Liberty Paragraph 3. Christian Liberty Is Not Meant to Be Abused

People who use Christian liberty as an excuse to practice any sin or enjoy any sinful desire pervert the main purpose of the grace of the gospel to their own destruction. 16

They completely destroy the purpose of Christian liberty, which is to allow us to serve the Lord without fear and in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our lives, as people who have been delivered out of the hands of all of our enemies. 17

16. Romans 6:1-2

17. Galatians 5:13; 2 Peter 2:18, 21

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]



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Go in the name of the Father, whom for all His children will guide you into bringing Him glory for His name's sake.

Go in the name of the Son, who perfected the path to bringing God Glory, and by His work, we have been given a second chance at life.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that brings us the new passion to live for God. Now go my people and bring God Glory this week in all you do!



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