



1 Corinthians 10:23-26

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."

Learning from Paul, how should we respond to those who say that all things are lawful? What is more important?

Paul says to raise the question about where the meat is from on the "ground of conscience." Whose conscience is he referring to? If the previous verse is about seeking the good of the neighbor, could it be that we are trying to, with our witness, protect our neighbor's conscience?

*Paul quotes from the psalms when he says, "the earth is the Lord's..." **Read Psalm 24:1-6** and discuss your reactions to it.*

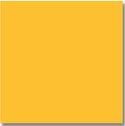
1 Corinthians 10:27-30

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?

Having laid out some principles about what is lawful and meat sacrificed to idols, we see a very practical example in verse 27. How does Paul advise a Christian to behave at a dinner party?

This advice is only practical if non-Christians actually are inviting you over to their homes. Is this something that happens to you? Are you putting yourself in positions to have relationships with unbelievers, and in so doing, have an impact upon them?

How can we better build relationships with non-Christians?



1 Corinthians 10:31-33

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.

When Paul writes, "whatever you do," what does 'whatever' mean? Is it really everything, and if so, how can we do everything for the glory of God? Are there parts of your life that often are left out of everything? Which parts are the hardest to give over to God?

Paul tries to please Jews, Greeks, and the church of God, but is there a limit to when we ought to please people? Is that the most important thing?

*Pleasing people is not the most important thing. Go back and **read 1 Corinthians 4:1-4**. What is more important than pleasing people?*



Romans 15:1-7

1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. **2** Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. **3** For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." **4** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. **5** May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, **6** that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **7** Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Here is another passage about seeking to help the "weak." Where can we find guidance, examples, and encouragement in seeking to do so?

If we hope to live in harmony with one another, what do we need?

How can you apply these Scriptures to your life?