

# Don't Miss

*Long Beach Alliance Church • August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 • Pastor Chris Lankford*

Whether, then, you eat or  
drink or whatever you do,  
do all to the glory of God.  
~1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:31 (NASB)

## **1) The Abiding Principle Of "Seeking The Other"**

- A) After extensive discussion and explanation (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8:1-10:33), Paul finally delivers final thoughts (10:23-33) in regard to "things sacrificed to idols" (8:1).
- B) Once again (cf. 6:12), Paul appeals to followers of Jesus Christ to be committed to living in a way which is profitable and edifying (10:23), even in regard to things which are "allowable" (lawful) for Christians.
- C) In a simple and profound manner, Paul summarizes the essence of this entire section in calling on Christ-followers to "seek others" instead of being "self-seeking" (10:24).
- D) It is especially important for us to maintain this difficult perspective when we "remember Jesus Christ" in our times of communion (cf. 10:16-17). Jesus Christ loved each of us, even while we were sinners (Romans 5:8). We are genuinely like Christ when we "love others" in the selfless manner in which Christ also loved us (Ephesians 4:32).

## **2) Being Sensitive While Being Balanced**

- A) Paul prohibited eating idol sacrifices (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8:8-12) on the basis that it could be damaging to weaker/younger believers. Clearly, Paul's motivation was to assure the undistracted communication of the Gospel (9:23).
  
- B) This prohibition was directly aimed at public ceremonies (8:10) where idolatry was the primary focus (10:7). Followers of Christ ought to be extra-careful of their public appearances, to assure fidelity with others and the gospel!
  
- C) However, Paul also allows for Christians to partake in food and drink (even that which was sacrificed to idols, 10:25-26) if done with a "clean other-seeking conscience" (10:27).
  
- D) In other words, if those who are eating or drinking are not offended by the substance of the food or drink, one may eat or drink. But if the conscience of "the other" is offended, one should abstain (10:28-29).
  
- E) Giving God thanks for food or drink (of whatever type) is a measure of having a clean conscience in front of God for that which you are drinking or eating (10:30).

## **3) The Measure Of Glory, Grace, & Gospel**

- A) Everything we do should glorify God (10:31) while still being gracious to religious outsiders (Jews), non-religious outsiders (Greeks), and family (the church of God, 10:32).
  
- B) Finally, as a capstone motivation, as a central purpose, as a "don't miss this" theme of Paul's teaching on what makes a follower of Jesus tick -- Paul calls for an outward gospel focus (10:33), keeping Jesus, and Him crucified (2:2), at the center of all we do, so that "they may be saved" (10:33).