

Being Sensitive with our Freedom

(Insights from 1 Corinthians 10:14 - 10:33)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, April 17th, 2016

Their Big Questions and our Similar Questions:

(1 Cor. 8:1a)

Then: Is it wrong to ...

Today: Is it wrong to ...

Paul's Long Answer: (1 Cor. 8:1b - 10:13)

- 8:1-8 An idol isn't real, but ...
- 8:9-13 Love and concern for others ...
- 9:1-23 Paul's example ...
- 9:24-10:13 A good start is no guarantee of ...

Paul's Wrap Up: (1 Cor. 10:14-33)

1. **Don't worship ...**
(1 Cor. 10:14-22, Deut. 32:15-18, Ps. 106:36-38, 2 Cor. 11:14-15)

2. **Don't worry about ...**
(1 Cor. 10:23-29a, 1 John 4:3-4)

3. **Don't worry about ...**
(1 Cor. 10:29b-30)

4. **Don't wander from ...**
(1 Cor. 10:31-33)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to "Week 3" of this season of our small groups at GPC! (Actually this is week 2 of using these discussion guides since last week we didn't have a sermon to unpack as we carved out time last Sunday to serve in various places in our community.) After this week, we have nine more weeks in this small group season before we wrap up the week of June 19th, and take July and August off.

Getting Started:

Looking back at your notes from last Sunday, what did you find most interesting, challenging or thought provoking as we studied 1 Corinthians 10:14-33?

Last Sunday, Bob mentioned how according to a recent survey, folks today are more concerned about political consistency than theological consistency when it comes to relationships including marriage. Did that surprise you? If you asked five random people if all religions are essentially the same, what answers do you think you would receive?

Thinking through how sensitive you are to others in terms of deciding what to do or not do when with them, what is your natural bent and personality? Are you more likely to scope out the situation and adjust your actions based on those around you, or are you more likely to say, "This is who I am - get used to it"?

Digging Deeper:

1. Last Sunday, Bob pointed out that we don't have to be concerned with 'indirect influence' when it comes to what others do around us in their worship or rituals. We can give Satan far too much credit by overestimating the extent of his power. Look up the following verses and jot down what they tell us about the spiritual confidence that we should have.

1 John 4:3-4

Deuteronomy 31:7-8

2 Kings 6:8-23

How would you describe your own awareness of God's power in our world as it is portrayed in these passages?

2. Knowing and understanding God's ultimate power in our life and our world makes a big difference in how we live out our faith. Yet it would also be foolish to underestimate the power of our spiritual enemy. Read the verses below and then identify the strategies Satan uses and write down specific current examples that come to mind.

John 8:44

2 Corinthians 4:4

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

3. Read the following verses and discuss what tools has God given us to avoid stumbling spiritually and the devil's traps?

Ephesians 6:10-13

1 Peter 5:8-9

Can you think of any ways these tools have been helpful to you lately? Are there any that you want to be more effective for you?

4. Although we don't have to worry about 'indirect influence' when it comes to spiritual attacks and the devil's power, it is wise to keep in mind the negative influence our world can have on us when in certain situations. How can we balance the desire to be 'in the world but not of the world' so we can not compromise our character but be available to be salt and light to a world that needs Jesus?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 and 2 Corinthians 5:20. In the last three verses of 1 Corinthians 10, Paul wraps up this section by encouraging the church at Corinth (and us) to make decisions ultimately to bring more glory to God. It brings God glory when what we say and do helps others to be more interested, attracted and open to considering the claims of Christ and accepting the gospel.

Sadly, some well-intentioned Christians have a habit of doing the opposite as they relate to others. Their actions cause others to be less open to the gospel (God loves them, Jesus died for them, their sins can be forgiven, and only by being forgiven and letting Jesus be Lord of their lives, can they be assured of a home with God in heaven). The claims of Jesus are enough of a challenge to consider. It is not helpful to add to the challenge by raising other issues and offenses as we relate to others.

How can you personally remain committed to the gospel and be more sensitive around others so that when someone is ready to engage the gospel, they just might reach out to you?

WRAPPING UP ...

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close and until our next small group meeting?

