

Christians Gone Wild!  
**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, week 24**  
Glorifying God (1 Corinthians 10:23–11:1)  
July 16, 2006  
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*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*  
1 Corinthians 10:31

As Christians who live in a culture that is not rooted in Jesus or the truth of Scripture, we must continually live with the tension of being a good citizen of our city while remaining faithful to our King Jesus. Practically this means that we must make decisions daily about the food we eat, the alcohol we consume, the films we watch, the events we attend, the hobbies we pursue, the jobs we work, and the friends we have. God, through Paul, gives us some helpful missional questions to inform our decision-making so that God is glorified, we are joyful, and non-Christians meet Jesus.

**1. Is it permissible by the authorities God has appointed over me?**

<sup>23</sup> *"Everything is permissible"*

**2. Is it beneficial for me and the reputation of Jesus?**

<sup>23</sup> *"Everything is permissible"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is constructive.*

**3. What would be most loving for other people?**

<sup>24</sup> *Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.* <sup>25</sup> *Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience,* <sup>26</sup> *for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it [Psalm 24:1]."*

**4. What would help people meet Jesus?**

<sup>27</sup> *If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience.* <sup>28</sup> *But if anyone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake — <sup>29</sup> the other man's conscience, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience? <sup>30</sup> If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?*

**5. Could this cause someone to fall into sin?**

<sup>32</sup> *Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—* <sup>33</sup> *even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. <sup>11:1</sup> Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*

Basically, Paul is teaching that we should obey Jesus and live out of love for God and other people. As he writes in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Therefore, the key to being faithful and fruitful missionaries in our culture is to follow the example of Jesus and glorify God in all things at all times. God is glorious (e.g., Exodus 15:11; Psalm 145:5). Glory is one of the great mega-themes of Scripture, appearing some 275 times in the NIV translation of the Bible and roughly 50 times in the Psalms alone. The word “glory,” however, is tough to nail down; it includes splendor, beauty, magnificence, radiance, rapture, weightiness, transcendence, holiness, honor, excellence, and majesty. In Scripture when people experience the glory of God, their responses include fear, awe, wonder, worship, dread, respect, conviction, repentance, and humility.

To be a good missionary in culture—loving people and abstaining from sin—is to live for God’s glory alone. For this to happen, you need to embrace the following truths:

1. You were made for God’s glory (Isaiah 43:6–7).
2. Everything in your life is an opportunity to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31).
3. Rather than glorifying God, you do what you think will make you happy and sin (Romans 3:23).
4. When you choose happiness over God’s glory, enduring joy is impossible. You wind up pursuing things besides the glory of God (e.g., life, friends, pleasure—ironically, all gifts from God) rather than God Himself.
5. Your pleasure is found in God alone; as God is glorified your joy is satisfied. Or, as John Piper says, “The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.” Or, “God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in Him.”

Tied to what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10, this means that when we live for God’s glory He gets glory, we get joy, and lost people get saved—all of which glorifies God even more. For this to happen we must look to Jesus, who glorified God by taking away our sin so that we can follow His example of living for the glory of God alone (Ephesians 1:5–6, 12, 14). The glory of God is clearly connected to Jesus Christ:

- “The Son [Jesus] is the radiance of God's glory . . .” (Hebrews 1:3).
- “The Word [Jesus] became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).
- Jesus is “the Lord of glory” (1 Corinthians 2:8).
- “[God] made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Have you confessed your sin to Jesus? Are you seeking to live your life in such a way as to make the name of Jesus great, even greater than your own? Do you embrace suffering and hardship as opportunities to glorify God as Jesus did? Do you find that seeing people love Jesus, hearing people sing to Jesus, and watching people meet Jesus makes you happier than anything else? Do you treasure anyone or anything above Jesus? Are you happy?

**For further study** read John Piper’s books, *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist* and *When I Don’t Desire God: How to Fight for Joy*.

Verses for next week: 1 Corinthians 11:2–16