

Have It HIS Way
1 Corinthians 10:23-33

The Christians in Corinth reflected rather than corrected the culture around them. Paul was concerned that they were a self-centered bunch. Paul challenged their “me first” approach to faith.

The Corinthian church knew the clear message of the gospel—that Christians are free from the bondage of believing that we must earn eternal life by doing certain rituals and good deeds. But they had taken their freedom too far. They had begun to act on the belief that they were free to do anything they wanted. They believed they were free to live a “me first” kind of life. Their slogan, which Paul repeats back to them, is “I have the right to do anything.”

Paul reminds them and us that, as followers of Christ, “allowable” is not the standard by which we are to live. What is “allowable” isn’t Jesus’ bar for us. God’s word says, our bar, our goal, is to do what is “beneficial” and “constructive.”

These two words in the original language are community words. They are family words. The 1st one literally means “to bring together,” like pooling resources for the benefit of everyone. The 2nd word combines the word for house or family with the word meaning “build up,” so “to build up the family.” The bar God’s word sets for our behavior is to bring together our strengths, resources, and abilities and to build up the family of God.

It’s so easy for us to slip into the spirit of the Corinthians’ day, of our day, and think almost exclusively of our own rights, our own preferences, our own comfort. Then we start to ask, “What is the least I have to do? I can’t worry about other people’s needs or feelings. They can worry about themselves.”

The challenge of God’s word to each of us is to be able to say with Paul: I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. Is that the testimony of your life before your Lord who didn’t seek His own good so that you could be saved?