



Gospel CONSCIENCE – TEXT: 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

How do we SHAPE and ACT RIGHTEOUSLY out of a GOSPEL-DRIVEN CONSCIENCE in “disputable” matters?

- Conscience = inward convictions about behaviors or values
- Disputable matters = items not directly addressed in Scripture

BELIEVE TRUTH – God’s CREATED and REDEEMED WORLD is full of His Good GIFTS: 1 Corinthians 10:26. Quoted from Psalm 24:1

- 1) **God made ALL THINGS GOOD:** Genesis 1:31
- 2) **Man’s SIN broke the INHERENT GOODNESS of ALL CREATION:** Genesis 3:17
- 3) **CREATION was consequently “subjected to FUTILITY” and placed in “bondage to CORRUPTION”** (Romans 8:20, 21)
- 4) **Man even WORSHIPS CREATION – substituting God’s good gifts for HIM:** Romans 1:25
- 5) **When God CALLED a people to HIMSELF, He DISTINGUISHED them from the PAGAN idolatrous nations through dietary and behavioral LAW:** Deuteronomy 14:2–3, 8acd
- 6) **Jesus came and TAUGHT that what DEFILES US is NOT what goes INTO US but what COMES out of US:** Mark 7:15, 21-23
- 7) **Jesus PERFECTLY FULFILLED God’s Law and thereby...**
 - a) **DECLARED all creation gifts CLEAN:** Mark 7:19b. See: Luke 11:41; Acts 10:15; Romans 14:14
 - b) **BEGAN a process of REDEEMING and RENEWING all creation:** Revelation 21:5b. See also: Romans 8:19-25
- 8) **ALL God’s GOOD GIFTS are now, NOT JUST CLEAN – THEY’RE HIS BLESSING:** Psalm 104:14–15
- 9) **God graciously GIVES good gifts even to UNBELIEVERS – that they may KNOW HIM:** Acts 14:17. See also: Matthew 5:45
- 10) **His GIFTS are for our JOY:** 1 Timothy 6:17d

ENJOY fully ALL God’s GOOD GIFTS:

- 1) **FLEE SIN – that which is EVIL (UNLAWFUL), IDOLATROUS and DEMONIC:** 1 Corinthians 10:6b, 7a, 8a, 9a–10, 14, 20b
- 2) **REFUSE to let OTHERS DEFINE your conscience or DENOUNCE your joy:** 1 Corinthians 10:29b-30
 - a) **Don’t VIOLATE your OWN CONSCIENCE:** Romans 14:23
 - b) **Don’t let false teachers DEFINE your CONSCIENCE – instead, let it be shaped by the WORD:** 1 Tim. 4:3–5. See: Rom 14:6; Gal 2:4
 - c) **Don’t BELIEVE that FOLLOWING extra-biblical rules makes you HOLY:** Colossians 2:20-23
 - d) **Don’t ACCEPT unbiblical or extra-biblical JUDGMENT:** Colossians 2:16-17. See also: Romans 8:1
 - e) **Don’t pass JUDGMENT on other BELIEVER’S consciences in DISPUTABLE matters:** Romans 14:3–4a
- 3) **ENJOY God’s LAWFUL GOOD GIFTS without FEAR, GUILT, SHAME or CONVICTION:** 1 Corinthians 10:25, 27. See also: Luke 10:8

DO GOOD to your NEIGHBOR always: 1 Cor. 10:24. See: Romans 15:1

- 1) **Does it HELP or ENCOURAGE?** 1 Corinthians 10:23. See also: Romans 14:19; Gal. 5:13; 1 Cor. 6:12
- 2) **Does it cause their FAITH to STUMBLE (and lead them to violate their own conscience)?** 1 Corinthians 8:7, 9. See: Rom. 14:20-21
- 3) **Does it cause UNNECESSARY OFFENSE in that culture/community?** 1 Corinthians 10:28-29a, 32. See also: Romans 14:15
- 4) **Are you FOLLOWING JESUS in SEEKING THEIR SALVATION FIRST?** 1 Corinthians 10:33-11:1. See also: 1 Corinthians 9:19

PURSUE GOD’S GLORY in EVERYTHING: 1 Corinthians 10:31. See also: Isaiah 43:6-7; Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11

- 1) **Whether we PARTAKE or ABSTAIN – we do it FOR JESUS:** Rom. 14:6
- 2) **We do EVERYTHING that the WORLD may SEE, KNOW and DELIGHT in our TRIUNE, SAVING GOD:** 1 Peter 4:11cd