



Body Building wk4: Intersection of Freedom, Conscience, & Love

Introduction: Just because you can do something, doesn't mean you should. While we shouldn't become paralyzed by other people's opinions and judgments, does love sometimes call us to set our freedoms aside for the benefit of someone else? What do you do when freedom collides with conscience and how does love direct our course?

Discussion Questions

1. Why are there rules for who goes first at an intersection? Have you witnessed chaos when those rules are ignored?
2. Read **Acts 15:28-29** These are what the "Jewish" church asked of Gentile believers. Why do you think these were the things they settled on to ask the Gentiles to abstain from? How were those things tied to worship?
3. Read **1 Corinthians 8:1-8** If a Gentile understood that there was only 1 true God, does that knowledge permit them to do any of those things that had been associated with pagan worship, because they weren't worshipping an idol? Look again at vs 8 – Why is Paul going to caution them about food, if the food doesn't directly affect their relationship with God?
4. Read **1 Corinthians 8:9-13** Why should I restrict my allowable conduct based on another person's conscience? What examples can you think of where this might be an issue for Christians today? Are there allowable things that you might not do in certain company because of concern for their understanding or faith?
5. Read **1 Corinthians 10:24-32** Paul sums up his thinking here. What can you take away from this passage to apply to possible "grey" areas?
6. Can you think of ways where you might be called to restrict your freedom around non-believers because of their consciences or thoughts about our faith? How can love and mission guide our actions around those who are not Christian?

Shaping Your Mind – *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God 1 Cor. 10:31*

Moving Forward – When freedom intersects with conscience, yield with love.