

1 Corinthians 10:23-33

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness." If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness." "Conscience, " I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience? But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks? Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

See-it Love

Henry Ford II once stated: "No society of nations, no people within a nation, no family can benefit through mutual aid unless good will exceeds ill will; unless the spirit of cooperation surpasses antagonism; unless we all see and act as though the other man's welfare determines our own welfare." Christ said the same thing in less words: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

With out a doubt, our greatest influence on those around us comes through a heart of love, not the emotional nor the erotic love that so many are caught up in today, but the self sacrificing love that Jesus epitomized as the Son of God who died as substitute for man: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Paul simplified the expression of that love to believer's in a very practical way: "Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others" (1 Corinthians 10:24 NIV). Imagine the transformation of families, businesses, governments and societies if even the Christians within our land truly lived this principle!

Stephen Olford in "The Grace of Giving" relates the following true story. During the American Revolution, a pastor named Peter Miller walked seventy miles to plead the life of Michael Wittman, a man accused of treason, and a man who had formerly used all his power to oppose the ministry of Miller. George Washington stated that he could not pardon Miller's friend, to which Miller responded: "My friend! He is my bitterest enemy." Upon hearing this, Washington replied: "What? You've walked seventy miles to save the life of your enemy? That puts the matter in a different light. I grant the pardon." Miller rescued Wittman from the jaws of judgement and death and brought home a man no longer his enemy, but his friend.

It is this very thing that Christ has done for each person who, with repentant heart, believes that Jesus died to bear their sin and rose to offer life: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). It is this very thing that God calls each believer to practice in their own life. Paul's challenge to the church at Philippi is God's challenge to each Christian today: "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete... Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2 NIV).

In Jesus, "God so loved the world", He died to set man free.

Now, help me show to all that path; Lord, love the world through me.

Christian friend, look for practical way at home, at work in the community to "love your neighbour as yourself!"

What is my response:
