

Freedom Revisited

1 Corinthians 10:23-30

Big idea:

We look more deeply into the gospel principle of restricting freedoms, and receive a warning against legalism.

Connecting

If you could only eat one fruit the rest of your life, what would it be?



Observation

What happens when the average American (not necessarily a Christian) is asked to give up certain freedoms? (This happened significantly in World War II, and more recently in COVID-19) Brainstorm different freedoms we might be asked to give up. What makes a person willing (or unwilling!) to give up rights and privileges?

Understanding

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-30. We may say “ho hum” to verse 24, but it was not a “ho hum” word back in the days of the Roman Empire. Explain.

Read Colossians 2:16-23. Why do people prize asceticism?

What does it mean to “bind someone’s conscience”? How does this happen in our churches today?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:26; 1 Timothy 6:17; Ecclesiastes 8:15. How would you use these verses to instruct the person who insisted that enjoying life was “unspiritual” or “ungodly”?

Living

Read Philippians 2:1-11. How did Jesus limit his freedoms? What does his example do to your heart?

How might God call you to limit your freedoms in order to love brothers and sisters?

What can a church do to stay unified in troubled times like we are living in now? Brainstorm.

Looking Ahead: Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1. What is the key principle?

Prayer together: