

Slide 1

“Whatever You Do . . .”

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-11:1

Introduction

1. Have you ever stopped to consider the different people you encounter in your life and your connection to them?
2. Some of us have more connections than others, but all of us have them.
3. For example, some of you who are in your youth are . . .
 - a. Students, with administrators, teachers and classmates, perhaps even a bus driver.
 - b. Maybe you are an athlete with coaches and teammates.
 - c. Sons or daughters with siblings and parents, aunts, uncles and cousins, perhaps even grandparents.
4. Many of you who are older are . . .
 - a. Husbands or wives who are also parents and perhaps grandparents.
 - b. Employers with employees or employees with an employer and co-workers.
5. Each of us can add to these relationships our friends, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and possibly many more.
6. The question is “how do we view each of these relationships?”
7. How do we respond to all of these people with whom we are connected in some way or another?
8. If you are a Christian, God has called you to Himself (Acts 2:39) through the gospel, and His desire is that you “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1).
9. As you dwell upon this fact, I want you to consider the words “whatever you do,”

because there is a way in which God intends our Christian faith to be lived out each and every day.

Slide 2

I. Live For The Good of Others (v. 24)

A. "LET NO ONE SEEK HIS OWN GOOD" (v. 24A)

"Let no one seek his own good" (v. 24a).

1. In chapters 8-10 of this letter Paul has been addressing the question of our conduct in what we might call "nonessential matters."
2. Here, he sets before us a principle which should govern our lives on a daily basis.
3. The principle begins with these words, "let no one seek his own good."
4. Three chapters later, in 1 Corinthians 13:5, Paul wrote, "Love . . . does not seek its own . . ."
5. What does Paul mean?
6. He means that we do not, "look out only for [our] own interests" (Philippians 2:4, NKJV).
7. Toward the end of Philippians 2, Paul said that he hoped to send Timothy to them in order to see how they were doing.
8. Sadly, he said that he had no one else with him who was genuinely concerned about their welfare.
9. He then added in Philippians 2:21, "For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus."
10. Paul's point is this, if we are going to live for the good of others, we must not be focused only on our own interests and desires.

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B. SEEK THE GOOD OF YOUR NEIGHBOR

“. . . but that of his neighbor” (v. 24b)

1. In Romans 15:2, Paul wrote something almost identical to what we find here in our reading.
2. He said, “Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification” (Romans 15:2).
3. As Christians, we should be concerned about the spiritual welfare of others around us.
4. This year, I would like for each of us to consider how we can . . .
 - a. build one another up (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).
 - b. serve one another (Galatians 5:13).
 - c. bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2).
 - d. be kind to one another and forgive each other (Ephesians 4:32).
 - e. encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13).
5. All of this and more is a part of what it means to love one another and to seek the good of others.

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II. Do Everything For The Glory of God (v. 31)

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

A. “DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD” (v. 31B)

1. What does it mean to do something “to the glory of God?”
2. It means that whatever is done brings glory, honor and praise to God.
3. In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, He said in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your

Father who is in heaven."

4. In 1 Peter 2:12, the apostle Peter encourages us to, "Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation."
5. When we take what Jesus, Peter and Paul each said and put it all together, we learn that our lives are to be lived in such a way that God receives the honor and praise.

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B. "WHATEVER YOU DO" (v. 31A)

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do . . ."

1. God isn't just concerned about what we do in this building on Sunday or Wednesday.
2. No, every aspect of our lives, our entire lifestyle matters to Him.
3. In our text this morning, Paul was concerned with how others would respond to God based upon whether the Christians in Corinth did or did not eat meat that was somehow associated with the idolatrous sacrifices taking place in the pagan temples.
4. For us today, God wants every aspect of our lives to bring glory to Him:
 - a. For those of us in the workforce, how do we conduct ourselves?
 - 1) If you are an employer or a supervisor, how do you treat those for whom you are responsible ?
 - 2) As an employee, how do you respond to your employer?
 - 3) Are we diligent in our work, or would those around us consider us lazy?
 - 2) Are we a pleasure to work with, or do others dread working alongside of us?
 - 3) What about the language for which we are known at work? Is it God honoring or God demeaning?

- b. For those of you who are students in school, do you do all "to the glory of God?"
 - 1) Are you known for being studious?
 - 2) Are you respectful of your teachers, or do you make jokes about them behind their backs?
 - 3. Do you build your fellow students up, or join with others in tearing them down?
- c. What about your families?
 - 1) Do you treat your spouse with love and respect?
 - 2) Do you respect and obey your parents?
 - 3) Is it evident to others outside your home that you have a deep reverence for the things of God?
- 5. How we live each and every day of our lives is important, because whether we realize it or not, someone is watching us and taking the cue for their conduct from us.
- 6. There are those who will be drawn closer to God or pushed further away from Him because of what they see in us.
- 7. So, in every aspect of our lives, we must make it our goal to do everything "to the glory of God" (v. 31).

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III. Live To Bring Others To Salvation (v. 33)

" just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved." (1 Corinthians 10:33)

A. KEEP WORKING TO REACH OTHERS

- 1. What did Paul mean by his statement, "I also please all men in all things?"
- 2. Did he mean that he just tried to fit in with everyone, even if it meant disobeying God? No.

3. I think he best explains himself in something he says in the chapter before this one.

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4. In 1 Corinthians 9:20-22, Paul wrote:

"To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:20-22, NIV84)

5. Paul's desire was always to save one more person.

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B. OUR DESIRE IS FOR OTHERS TO BE SAVED

1. Let me ask you a personal question?
2. How do you see the people you encounter every day?
 - a. Do you see your co-workers as just that, a co-worker, or someone to win to Christ?
 - b. So you see your classmates at school as simply classmates, or a person who needs Christ? What about your teammates?
 - c. What about your employees? The cashier who checks you out? The waiter or waitress who serves you your meal?
3. I admit, it can be a little overwhelming, but this is the way Paul viewed others who were outside of Christ.
4. They were individuals in need of salvation.
5. This is the way God wants us to see people.
6. Let me encourage you this year to . . .
 - a. Reach out to those people you encounter on a regular basis.

- b. Invite them to come to worship with you.
 - c. Ask them if you can study God's Word with them.
 - d. Give the visitors who come to worship with us a warm welcome.
 - e. Invite them to sit with you. Ask them if you can take them out to lunch.
7. If we are going to make a difference for Christ in our community and the world, this is the mindset we must adopt.

Conclusion

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1. Everything which I have said to you this morning can be summarized by Paul's last statement in our reading this morning.
2. In 1 Corinthians 11:1, he said, "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."
3. If you and I work to imitate Jesus in our lives, then we will . . .
 - a. Seek the good of our neighbor.
 - b. Do everything to the glory of God.
 - c. Have a strong desire for others to be saved.
4. Our Lord gave us His freedom, His honor, and His glory by humbling Himself to the point of death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8).
5. All of this was to save us.
6. There are so many more who need the same salvation which we have received.
7. Let's not deny them that opportunity because we are doing our part.