

March 11, 2018

Pastor Steve Hardy

Unfinished: Living Out Love

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

Legalists live by what they are permitted, or not permitted to do. A constant refrain from the Pharisees had to do with what was or wasn't "lawful." But followers of Jesus are called to live by a higher principle—the law of love, the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37-40). Love for God and love for others fulfill the law, and in another sense, make the question of lawfulness unnecessary.

- I. Love means choosing what is good for OTHERS, 10:23-30; 32-11:1.
 - A. Love chooses to do what is HELPFUL, 23.
 - B. Love chooses to do what will BUILD UP, 23, 33.
 - C. Love chooses not to INJURE another, 24-30; 32.
- II. Love means choosing what will GLORIFY GOD, 10:31.
- III. Love means choosing to be like CHRIST, 11:1.

Living a faithful life as a follower of Jesus is not about figuring out all the "rules" so you know what is and isn't "lawful." It is about consistently loving God and others, reflected in the day to day choices we make.



Have a family discussion about "living out love" by making choices that are others-centered or God-centered. Name some practical examples. Consider: Do we only "live out love" toward family and friends? Read together Luke 10:25-37. Decide on a "family project" in living out love toward a "neighbor."

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. The idea of being "helpful" is that of something that is better (than an alternative) because it is to one's advantage, it is good and it is useful.
 - Can you think of some things that may be "lawful" but are not good for you, someone else, or that at best offer no advantage?
 - Does "not being helpful" necessarily mean it is bad?
 - How might this relate to the concept in Colossians 4:5 of "making the best use of the time"?
2. The word for "building up" may also be translated "constructive," as in building up (constructing) a house.
 - This is the word used in Ephesians 4:12 and 16. How does this concept actually define our purpose as fellow members of Christ's body?
 - What are the various components of "building up" identified in Ephesians 4:1-16?
 - How many times is love mentioned in Ephesians 4:1-16, and what does it have to do with "building up one another"?
3. We have gone back several times now (because Paul does) to the "hot topic" for the Corinthians of meat sacrificed to idols. Rereading 1 Corinthians 8-10, how would you explain to a believer at Corinth when and why they should refrain from eating meat sacrificed to idols?
4. We talk easily about living to glorify God.
 - Why does Paul make such a broad statement in 1 Corinthians 10:31?
 - How is this command related to 1 Corinthians 10:32-11:1?
 - What contribution does Peter make to this command in 1 Peter 2:11-12?

NEXT WEEK: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, Order and Its Symbols