

Soli Deo Gloria - 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Introduction - Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 (Estienne and Verse divisions in 1551 Greek Text)

1. WHY I LOVE NEW YEARS.

- a. People are reflective.
- b. People strive to be Resilient and forward Focused.
- c. People are Resolute.

2. CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE THE MOST RESOLUTE OF ALL

- a. Empowered by the Grace of God (Philippians 2:12-13)
- b. Called to live in a manner worthy of the gospel call (2 Thess. 1:5, 11).
- c. Called to live as lights in a dark world (Matt 5:16)
- d. Called to grow in love and knowledge.

3. JONATHAN EDWARDS' 70 RESOLUTIONS

- a. Written when he was 18 & 19.
- b. "Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same."
- c. "Resolved, never henceforward, till I die, to act as if I were any way my own, but entirely and altogether God's"
- d. "Resolved, never to say anything at all against anybody, but when it is perfectly agreeable to the highest degree of Christian honor, and of love to mankind, agreeable to the lowest humility, and sense of my own faults and failings, and agreeable to the golden rule"
- e. Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory, and my own good, profit and pleasure, in the whole of my duration, without any consideration of the time, whether now, or never so many myriad's of ages hence.

4. WHY THE TITLE SOLI DEO GLORIA?

- a. Explain The Five Solas of the Reformation.
- b. The text we are looking at today shows that living for the glory of God alone was no novel concept for the reformers
- c. Living for the Glory of God is the essence of the Christian life.
- d. Our theme for 2019 (For God's Glory).
- e. Every Resolution that we make as believers, must pass through the filter of will this glorify God, and if it doesn't it should be reconsidered.

Transition: In the text we look at today, Paul outlines three ways in which we should seek to glorify God in not only our resolutions, but in our lives.

I. You are to Glorify God in Every Action (v. 31).

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

1. THE CENTRAL POINT OF THE ENTIRE EPISTLE

- a. Most of Corinthians is written to correct issues that have been occurring in the church. Chapter 3 deals with division, chapters 5-6 Sexual immorality, chapters 8-10 Idolatry.
- b. In chapter 10, Paul appeals to the history of the Israelites and how even though they experienced the salvation of God out of Egypt, many of them fell because of idolatry, and that they should learn from that example and flee from idolatry, lest they too come under judgment.
- c. Paul then closes the section with a discussion on Christian liberty. Primarily in regards to be eating and drinking things that may or may not have been offered to idols. Because the strong Christian recognizes that even if something was offered to an idol it did nothing to change the fact that everything belongs to the LORD.
- d. However, if someone explicitly says this was offered to idols, then it is best to not partake it, not because it affects our conscience, but because it could affect a weaker Christian or the pagan offering it.

e. Paul then closes with the passage we are now looking at, to provide the central prerequisite that should undergird every decision made within the context of our Christian liberty.

2. "WHETHER YOU EAT OR DRINK"

- a. The first aspect of this clearly links it with the previous discussion in regards to eating meat or drinking wine that has been offered to idols. Paul is arguing that whatever decision the Corinthians make in regards to eating and drinking when invited to non-believers homes, should be made with the glory of God being foremost in their mind.
- b. However, it could also be implied that eating and drinking are two of the most mundane and basic activities of every day living. In other words, even when you are considering the most basic aspects of your life, God's glory should be the preeminent focus behind it.
- c. We so often subjugate the glory of God to "big moments" i.e. evangelism, Lord's Day, Bible study, etc., but Paul is saying that no matter how small or insignificant an act may seem in the vain repetitions of our life, it is another moment graciously given by God to make his glory known.
- d. Sometimes in the smallest moments, God's glory shines at its brightest.

3. "OR WHATEVER YOU DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD."

- a. Paul continues to outline the sphere in which we are to live for the glory of God.
- b. Whatever you do, do all.
- c. Every breath you take, every decision made, every choice considered, every resolution marked down should permeate with the glory of God for the Christian believer.
- d. Can you say that every moment of your life is lived in the shadow of God's glory, I know I can't and that is why more than ever I am resolved to make it so.
- e. Remember Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine, why? So that they will see your good works and glorify who? The Father who is in heaven.
- f. We are temples of the living God, with the purpose of displaying his glory to the nation, and every action of our lives must flow out of that grand reality.

- g. You must answer the question of why do you do what you with the consistent answer, “so that the Triune God would be glorified in my life.”
- h. It is easy to sale our devotion to the glory of God to the church, but what about at work, what about at school, what about with friends, what about on the facebook page, what about at home when youre all alone with your thoughts and devices and there is no fear of retribution from the outside world. Do you live for his glory then?
- i. If it is not so then let your resolution be with me this New Year: Resolved, to glorify God in every one of my actions.”

II. You are to Glorify God in your Love for Others (vv. 32-33).

vv. 32-33 “Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.”

- 1. “Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church fo God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I Do..”
 - a. Now what is Paul talking about here? Isn't the gospel an offensive teaching. A stumbling block for the Jew and foolishness to the gentile.
 - b. Give no offense here does not mean make sure to walk on egg shells and be sure to never say anything that that will offend someone.
 - c. In the direct context Paul outlines three specific groups that the Corinthians believers were to live in a way not to give offense.
 - Jews - The eating of foods given to idols would have been reason for them to make claims against Christians as undermining Yahweh.
 - Gentiles - the eating of foods given to idols would have been reason to make claims that their idols were true and and real.
 - The church - Cause weaker brothers to stumble in eating and drinking in pagan markets and feasts.

d. In our context it is clear then, what the principle of “Give no offense” is: **Do not let your actions and deeds be that which serves as the stumbling block to unbelievers.**

Do not do anything that would undermine the gospel, your testimony, and the walk of your brothers and sisters.

2. “just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.”

a. It is important here that we once again qualify what Paul means he sought to please everyone in everything he did.

b. This does not mean be a people pleaser by compromising convictions or truth. This is Paul reiterating what he already wrote to them in chapter 9.

c. 1 Cor. 9:19-23 “For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

d. In other words, though we are totally free in Christ, there should be no hurdle that we should not be unwilling to leap over with so long as it does not undermine gospel essentials or undermine the glory of God in order to be instruments that God might use to bring salvation to others.

e. This is the epitome of love for others. **As Christians we are to never see ourselves as being too above or too beyond a person in order to seek and establish some sort of cordiality with the purpose that God might use us for his glory in saving sinners.**

f. **Salvation is absolutely of God, but may it never be said of us that in his judgment he chose never to use us as an instrument of his salvation because of our lack of love for others.**

- g. God is most glorified in the salvation of sinners, and may we in the next year be fully willing to forego our liberty and our privileges for the love of others, that God's glory may be seen in our lives, and even more so in the lives of those who may come to Christ through God's use of us as his instruments of mercy.
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III. You are to Glorify God by Imitating Christ (11:1)

11:1 "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

*This is the answer to how God can be glorified by any of our lives—Imitating Christ

1. WHY SAY BE IMITATORS OF ME?

a. Blessed to live with the fullness of the Canon of Scripture.

- The Corinthians would not have had the fullness of the gospel and so the greatest expression of Christ was found in Paul's teaching and life.
- We have the fullness of Scripture today and therefore, we can fully know and learn from the live and teaching of our Lord, and so we can truly imitate Christ.

b. Reminders that we are called to be little "Christs" and that we are the only Bible some people will ever read.

C. If people were only able to know aspects of Christ from knowing you, how would they see Christ? Is Christ glorified by the way you live, speak, act, send, etc? Can you say to the new believer imitate me as I imitate Christ?

2. NOT WHAT WOULD JESUS DO, BUT WHAT DID JESUS DO.

- a. One of the most common quotes of modern evangelicalism is "What would Jesus do?" - I have never liked that quote.
- b. It puts us in a place of moral arbitration. Our morality then is substituted for Christs, and the clear teaching of Scripture is that God's ways are not our ways, and his thoughts are not his thoughts.

- c. We have no need to ask what Jesus would do in a situation, unless that drives us to the Scriptures by asking what did Jesus do.
- d. We have four gospel accounts giving us clear instruction on what Jesus did do, so if you want to be a WWJD Christian, you better be a “lets go to Scripture and see Christian.”
- e. The radiance of Gods’ glory was seen in Christ, and **the only place where God’s glory will be radiated will be in the place where Christ is imitated.**

3. FOR YOUR GOOD AND HIS GLORY.

- a. I want you to realize something though, as we are glorifying God by imitating Christ, we are actually being made glorified by God as he conforms us to the image of his Son.
- b. Explain the difference between our Glorification and God’s.
- c. As we are conformed to the image of the Son, and live as imitators of him as a means to glorify God, we are being changed from one level of glory to another in the process of sanctification.

***This new year let every day be lived with the goal of imitating Christ, not by trying to figure out what he would do, but by immersing yourself in all that he did do.**

Let the world see Christ in your life, by seeking to be obedient to God in every action, and by giving up your own liberties and prerogatives for the sake and salvation of others.

Let them see Christ.

Closing

- 1. Be resolved Christians, but let every resolve begin with the singular goal of “For His glory.”
- 2. Glorify him with every action, with your love for others, and your imitating Christ.
- 3. Don’t be minimalists, don’t ask is it a sin, or well the Bible doesn’t say, or other Christians are doing it, ask the singular question of does it glorify God more?
- 4. **True Joy is found in a life lived for the Glory of God.**

5. I pray that every one of you in this church will set the primary resolution of not only 2019, but your life to be "Resolved to live for His glory."