

II. THE PROCESS

A. Go To The Bible

1. Permission

2. Prohibition

3. Principles

B. Freedom

C. Wisdom

D. Witness

III. THE CORINTHIANS' SITUATION

“You say, ‘I am allowed to do anything’ -but not everything is good for you. You say, ‘I am allowed to do anything’ - but not everything is beneficial.”

1 Corinthians 10:23 (NLT)

“Don’t be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.”

1 Corinthians 10:24 (NLT)

“So you may eat any meat that is sold in the marketplace without raising questions of conscience. For ‘the earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it.’ If someone who isn’t a believer asks you home for dinner, accept the invitation if you want to. Eat whatever is offered to you without raising questions of conscience. (But suppose someone tells you, ‘This meat was offered to an idol.’ Don’t eat it, out of consideration for the conscience of the one who told you. It might not be a matter of conscience for you, but it is for the other person.) For why should my freedom be limited by what someone else thinks? If I

can thank God for the food and enjoy it, why should I be condemned for eating it? So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Don’t give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God. I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don’t just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved. And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”

1 Corinthians 10:25-11:1 (NLT)

IV. A CONTEMPORARY SITUATION

“Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.”

1 Timothy 5:23 (NIV)

“O LORD my God, how great you are! ...You cause grass to grow for the livestock and plants for people to use. You allow them to produce food from the earth - wine to make them glad, olive oil to soothe their skin, and bread to give them strength.”

Psalms 104:1,14-15 (NLT)

“Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart....”

Ecclesiastes 9:7 (NIV)

“John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ [I] came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’”

Luke 7:33-34 (NIV)

“Wine produces mockers; alcohol leads to brawls. Those led astray by drink cannot be wise.”

Proverbs 20:1 (NLT)

“It is not for kings, O Lemuel, to guzzle wine. Rulers should not crave alcohol. For if they drink, they may forget the law and not give justice to the oppressed.”

Proverbs 31:4-5 (NLT)

Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit....”

Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)

“Who has anguish? Who has sorrow? Who is always fighting? Who is always complaining? Who has unnecessary bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new drinks. Don’t gaze at the wine, seeing how red it is, how it sparkles in the cup, how smoothly it goes down. For in the end it bites like a poisonous snake; it stings like a viper.”

Proverbs 23:29-32 (NLT)

“But live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. Don’t tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.”

Romans 14:13, 20-21 (NLT)

IS IT OKAY FOR A CHRISTIAN?

FRACTURED - Part 3

September 27, 2026

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I. THE QUESTION

“Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that ‘we all have knowledge’ about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn’t really know very much. But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes. So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. But for us, There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live. However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. It’s true that we can’t win God’s approval by what we eat. We don’t lose anything if we don’t eat it, and we don’t gain anything if we do. But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble. For if others see you - with your ‘superior knowledge’ - eating in the temple of an idol, won’t they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed. And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ. So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live - for I don’t want to cause another believer to stumble.”

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NLT)