

Introduction — “Is this allowed?”

- Scripture clearly prohibits certain actions, but many areas in Christian life appear “gray.”
 - The Corinthian church struggled with the same question:
 “Is it acceptable to eat food sacrificed to idols?”
 - Paul does not simply give a rule —
 he teaches how believers should **use the freedom given in Christ.**
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1) First Principle: We Are People of Fellowship (10:16–22)

A. Fellowship with Christ through the Lord’s Supper

- The cup and the bread represent participation (“koinonia”) in Christ’s body and blood.
- The Lord’s Supper unites believers with Christ and with one another.
- In the Old Testament, those who ate offerings shared fellowship with the God to whom they were offered.

B. The Danger of Fellowship with Demons

- Idols are nothing in themselves, but idol worship has **spiritual powers behind it.**
- One cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons.
- There is **no spiritual neutral ground.**
- Modern examples:
 spiritualized yoga/meditation, horoscopes, occult practices, religious pluralism.

► Freedom Principle #1:

“With whom—or what—does this action join me?”

Fellowship with Christ cannot coexist with fellowship with darkness.”

2) Second Principle: Freedom Has a Purpose (10:23–30)

A. Three Questions to Guide Christian Freedom

1. Is it beneficial?
2. Does it build others up?
3. Does it serve someone else’s good rather than my own?

→ Christian freedom is not aimless license — it has direction and purpose.

B. Two Practical Guidelines

1. Generally, we are free (10:25–27)

- Do not anxiously investigate the origin of food.
- All creation belongs to the Lord and can be received with gratitude.

2. But freedom yields to love (10:28–30)

- If someone points out that the food was offered to idols → refrain.
- The reason: **to protect that person’s conscience**, not because food changed.
- Freedom that harms others is not Christian freedom.

► Freedom Principle #2:

**“Christian freedom is used not for self-expression,
but to build up others in love.”**

3) Third Principle: Everything for the Glory of God (10:31–11:1)

A. The Highest Aim

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.

- Every part of life is worship — not just church activities.

B. Live to Bless and Not Cause Stumbling

- Do not give offense to Jews, Greeks, or the church.
- Seek the good of many so that they may be saved.

C. The Model — Christ Himself

- Jesus surrendered His divine rights for our salvation.
- True freedom imitates Christ's humility and sacrificial love.

► Freedom Principle #3:

**"Use your freedom as Christ did—
for God's glory and the salvation of others."**

Conclusion — Three Questions for This Week

When you face a decision and ask, *"Is this okay?"*, remember:

1. **Does this deepen fellowship with Christ?**
2. **Does this build others up?**
3. **Does this glorify God?**