

# Messy

Part Ten: *Christian liberty*

July 10, 2022

The Bible clearly condemns many ungodly, hurtful actions and it clearly commands many godly, helpful actions. But there are many actions that are neither condemned nor commanded in the Bible. We refer to these actions as “gray areas.”

- **In 1 Corinthians chapter eight, Paul teaches Christians to consider how their actions will affect others before doing something that is not directly forbidden in Scripture.**

**1<sup>st</sup> - Paul reminds Christians that love is more important than their Bible knowledge. 1 Corinthians 8:1-3**

The more mature Christians in the Corinthian church needed to prioritize showing love to their brothers and sisters in Christ rather than flaunting their understanding of the Scriptures.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Paul reminds Christians that not everyone in their church knows what the Bible says. Vs. 4-7**

The young Christians in the church were scared to eat meat that had been offered to idols because they were ignorant of what the Word of God said about God, idols, and food. Paul tells the mature Christians that it is wrong to cause the weaker Christians to go against their consciences (Romans 14:23).

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Paul reminds Christians they must be careful not to cause other Christians to stumble. Vs. 8-13**

Paul reminds the more mature Christians in the church that although food is just food and has no spiritual value, they should be careful what they eat because eating meat that was offered to idols could cause a weaker Christian to sin.

*Here's the lesson for today...*

**We are never to do anything that could cause another Christian to sin.**

***Seven questions to ask yourself before you do something that is not directly forbidden in Scripture:***

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| 1. Could this action hinder me in any way from doing what God wants me to do?      | Hebrews 12:1        |
| 2. Is this action helpful and useful for my life?                                  | 1 Corinthians 10:23 |
| 3. Could this action potentially enslave me?                                       | 1 Corinthians 6:12  |
| 4. Am I setting the right example for less mature Christians by doing this action? | 1 Timothy 4:12      |
| 5. Will this action help me draw unbelievers to Christ?                            | Colossians 4:5      |
| 6. Would Jesus spend His time, energy, and money on this action?                   | Ephesians 5:1-17    |
| 7. Does this action glorify (exalt) God?   | 1 Corinthians 10:31 |