

WHAT ABOUT MY RIGHTS

1 CORINTHIANS 8-10 / TED HARRIS /
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On Paul's second missionary journey he planted a church in Corinth, ministering there for over a year. Now at the start of his third missionary journey, he is writing a letter addressing problems and answering questions from this young church.



What do we do when gray areas of morality arise? When we can't agree on what is right and what is wrong in those areas where God doesn't clearly speak?

Paul gives us 3 principles in this section of his first letter to the Corinthian church that will help discern how to handle the freedoms that we have in Christ.

Principle 1 – You don't have a market on Knowledge

1 Corinthians 8:1-8

Principle 2 – At times we must Voluntarily Abstain for the sake of others

1 Corinthians 8:7-13

Paul's use of weaker and stronger is not a value judgment on a person's spiritual maturity.

James 4:17, "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them."

Principle 3 – Do what is most like to bring people to Christ

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

"This statement has sometimes been understood as though it meant that Paul was a mere pragmatist, a spin doctor, twisting his message this way and that to suit different audiences. That's not what he's saying. The message remains constant. It is the messenger who must swallow pride, who must give up his rights, who must change his freedom into slavery. Woe betide those who trim the message so that they don't have to trim themselves." NT Wright