

## I Corinthians 10:23-33

### Motives

For more material on this subject see [apptoteach.org](http://apptoteach.org) theology files #107, #308



#### I Corinthians 10:23-33

“<sup>23</sup> **All things are lawful**, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. <sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own {good,} but that of his neighbor <sup>25</sup> Eat anything that is sold in the meat market, without asking questions for conscience’ sake; <sup>26</sup> *for the earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains.* <sup>27</sup> If one of the unbelievers invites you, and you wish to go, eat anything that is set before you, without asking questions for conscience’ sake.”

#### I Corinthians 10:23-33

“<sup>28</sup> But if anyone should say to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat {it,} for the sake of the one who informed {you,} and for conscience’ sake; <sup>29</sup> I mean not your own conscience, but the other {man’s}; for why is my freedom judged by another’s conscience? <sup>30</sup> **If I partake with thankfulness**, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?”

#### I Corinthians 10:23-33

“<sup>31</sup> Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; <sup>33</sup> just as I also please all men in all things, **not seeking my own profit, but the {profit} of the many**, that they may be saved.”

### Keys to a clear conscience

**#1 A relationship with God and people that is based on **grace not law.****

#### I Corinthians 10

“<sup>23</sup> **All things are lawful,**”

### Four postures before the Law

<b>Outside the Law</b>	<b>Under the Law</b>	<b>Above the Law</b>	<b>Free from the Law</b>
Pagan	Legalist	False grace	True grace

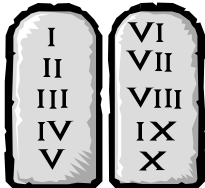
**Rom.10:4** “For Christ is the **end of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes.”

**Romans 4:5**  
 “But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who **justifies the ungodly**, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.”

Christians are free from the Law

as a covenant of works

**Yes!**



as the ethic of the Kingdom

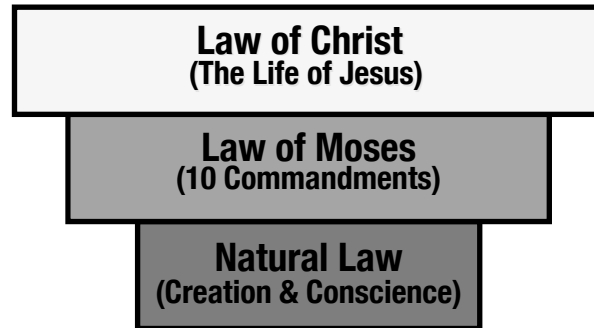
**No!**

**Grace means that God accepts me without approving of all that I do or believe.**

**Legalism - living under the Law**

**I Corinthians 9** “<sup>21</sup> to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under **the law of Christ**”

<p><b>Challenging the Strong to live by performance</b></p> <p>“the mind set on the flesh is death”</p>	<p><b>Condemning the Sensitive to live under guilt</b></p> <p>“wretched man that I am”</p>	<p><b>Hardening the Religious to live with pride</b></p> <p>“eat not, touch not”</p>
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**Guidance under three systems**

<p><b>Natural Law</b></p> <p>Conscience and Social contract</p>	<p><b>Mosaic Law</b></p> <p>Proof text and Tradition</p>	<p><b>Law of Christ</b></p> <p>Leading of the Spirit through the Principles of Scripture</p>
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*Gracious relationships are characterized by:*

**A relaxed attitude**

~~Fear~~ ~~Guilt~~ ~~Bitterness~~  
~~Anxiety~~ ~~Manipulation~~

## Keys to a clear conscience

#1 A relationship with God that is based on grace not law.

**#2 A relationship with God and people that is based on love not fear.**

I Corinthians 10

“<sup>33</sup> not seeking my own profit, but the {profit} of the many,”

Love is moving toward another with a genuine interest in understanding the deepest longings of their soul and a commitment to help them realize their desires.

**Soul care**

## “meat offered to idols” two contexts

Served in open market with no one paying attention  
Chapter 8-9

Served in association with active idol worship  
Chapter 10

## Keys to a clear conscience

#1 A relationship with God and people that is based on grace not law.

#2 A relationship with God and people that is based on love not fear.

**#3 A relationship with God and people that is based on thankfulness not bitterness.**

I Corinthians 10

“<sup>30</sup> If I partake with thankfulness,”

## The point of this text

**I will act with a clear conscience when I relate to God and people from a spirit of grace, love, and gratitude.**

## Lessons from this text

- ✓ It all starts with a relationship with God that is based on grace.
- ✓ When we know we are secure and loved we can let go of our rights as we serve and love others.
- ✓ Being able to thank God for all that we have and do is a good indication of our heart's condition.