

## II. Careful Actions

### Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 10:24-33

Our actions proceed from the heart and mind (Proverbs 4:23-27; Mark 7:21-23; Colossians 3:1-17). If we need to be careful how we think of people, then we should make sure that our actions (words and deeds) are under the control of those thoughts. Impulsive behavior usually has a negative effect on our work with souls. Let's examine I **Corinthians 10:31-33** and premeditate what kind of behavior would please the Lord as we interact with people.

- A. We must not be a stumbling block.** In I Corinthians 10:32 we are told to "give none offence." That means "don't cause others to stumble by your example." The fact that we are to be mindful of Jews, Gentiles and the church of God shows how everybody is important when considering our actions. Earlier, in this chapter, Paul is talking about the subject of meats that are offered to idols (vs. 23-29 "shambles" = meat market). The meat is not affected by the idol, but the conscience of others might be harmed if they see a Christian knowingly partaking of it. It could imply that we are inclusive of all religious thought and deter people from knowing that Christ is the only way (John 14:6). This kind of thinking needs to be applied to all areas of our life (I Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17).

**Romans 14** is a lengthy and important discussion on how we must graciously interact with other Christians in areas of conviction where there is not agreement. Two examples cited are food and the observing of special religious days. There are, of course, many other issues today that unnecessarily divide Christians. We need to focus on what Romans 14:13-19 is saying for all areas of our conduct. Consider also I **Corinthians 8**.

- B. We must be a good example.** See Matthew 5:13-16; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:8-10; Philippians 2:14-16; II Corinthians 2:14-17.
- C. Our actions must be motivated by a desire to profit others, not just ourselves.** This is a crucial point. This whole topic is about thinking of others (How are they benefiting?) and not just thinking about ourselves (Am I okay? Am I enjoying myself?) 1 **Corinthians 10:23** tells us we must do that which is "expedient" (profitable) and that which will "edify" (strengthen / build up others). **Verse 24** tells us to seek the "wealth" or the "good" or wellbeing of others. See **verse 33**.

cp. I Corinthians 9:19-23; Romans 15:1-3; Philippians 2:1-8; I John 3:16; II Corinthians 5:14-15.