



# Wisdom Chooses to Benefit Others

Week 5 R&R Devotional

**Big Idea:**

*Your decisions should consider how it impacts others. Let's make decisions that will encourage others to come to Christ.*

**Scripture - 1 Corinthians 10:23-24**

*<sup>23</sup>"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. <sup>24</sup>No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.*

We all know that speed limits are put out on the road for our safety. However, if you're honest, most of us may look at the 70 miles per hour speed limit on the free-way and push on the gas pedal just a little more to get our speed up to 71. Some of us may go a little further to a number that, in your mind, you can justify to think is not fast enough to get pulled over by a police officer, The truth is that by exceeding the speed limit we are endangering ourselves and others.

The church in Corinth was struggling with their newfound freedom in Christ, and they were asking a question that Christians have been asking for years "What can I get away with and still call myself a Christian?"

Instead of giving them a nice little list of Christian rules, the Apostle Paul tells them they are not asking the right question. Instead of asking the infamous "How far is too far?" question, Paul challenges them to ask this question instead: "What can I do to benefit others? How can I intentionally seek to help others, even at the risk of some of my freedoms?" It is a totally different question. It is a question that can change our lives.

Today our culture and society preach that you should be allowed to do whatever you choose to do as long as it doesn't directly hurt others. However, Paul is challenging this thought. Yes, we have rights and freedoms, however as Christians we have a responsibility to make decisions in wisdom and consider if our actions are beneficial in helping lead others to Jesus! If what we want to do may be a bad example or lead someone to not want to pursue a relationship with Jesus, then it is our responsibility as disciples of Christ to choose not to participate in that behavior.

Ask yourself this question right now: How am I setting up other people to grow in their relationship with Jesus? That is the heart of what Paul was saying to the Corinthians and it is still applicable to us. What would it look like if we were willing to sacrifice certain freedoms to benefit others, and bring them closer to Jesus? This week think about the decisions you're making and ask God to help you make decisions that will bless and benefit those God has placed in your life such as your family at home, your coworkers, neighbors etc.

### **This Week's Memory Verse**

#### **1 Corinthians 10:24**

*No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.*

### **This Week's R&R - 1 Corinthians 10**

This week we would like to encourage you to read 1 Corinthians 10 and read and reflect on what Paul is saying to the church in Corinth regarding Israel's history and making better decisions as followers of Christ.