

Deal Or No Deal?

Key Scriptures

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

1 Cor 9:12 . . . we endure everything so that we may not be a hindrance to the gospel of Christ. . . . 19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more.

1 Cor. 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1 Cor. 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

1 Cor. 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Cor. 14:26 Let all things be done for edification (building others up).

1 Cor. 10:31 ³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Cor. 8:9, 12-13 ⁹ But be careful that this liberty of yours does not become a hindrance to the weak. . . .
¹² If you sin against your brothers or sisters in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ For this reason, if food causes my brother or sister to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I may not cause one of them to sin.

Key Point:

Galatians 5:13 "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Do you have a favorite game show? Do you prefer shows that require skill or knowledge, or those that are based on randomness?

Start thinking: Questions to get your group thinking.

Sunday's message gave 5 filters believers need to run our liberty through when it comes to gray areas that scripture doesn't specify:

1. Is it helpful? (both spiritually and physically)
 2. Will it bring me under its power or control?
 3. Will it identify me with unrighteous things, or hurt my influence with those outside the faith?
 4. Does it build others up?
 5. Does it glorify God?
- Which passages (on the left, or others) fit with each of these five filtering questions? (For example, 1 Cor 6:12 fits with #1)
 - What are some more prominent gray areas or debatable issues we deal with in our lives today? As a group, pick your top 5 issues, and see if the 5 filtering questions bring any clarity to whether or not you are free to participate in that issue.
 - How do you interpret the idea of an action bringing you under its power or control? What examples can you share?

Start sharing: Questions to create openness.

- What are the dangers of misusing Christian liberty?
- How have you approached morally gray areas in your life in the past? Can you share an example from your life where you applied one or more of these filters to make a decision?
- How do you think cultural context plays a role in applying these filters? Are there specific cultural challenges that Christians may face in different regions or communities?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- How can you apply these 5 questions this week?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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