

4Ws

WHAT'S WRONG WITH US?



LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY

OCTOBER 8, 2023



WORSHIP

Let the Praises Ring,
All Because of Jesus,
Alive in You, Inside Out,
Here's My Life

WELCOME

What do you see people
around you pursuing
the most these days?
How about you?

WORD

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27 (ALSO READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-31)

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I [a] discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

There's was something wrong with the Corinthian church back in Paul's day and that's why he wrote to them on the problems they struggled with. There is also still something wrong in our churches today, things that happened then still happen today that impact us. Knowing the truth about Jesus but still choosing to compromise is the main problem that we will talk about today. Some reasons we compromise is because of the mindset that "God is gracious", but **Romans 6:1-2** tells us we should not abuse God's grace. We also compare our sins with others and conclude that we are not as "bad". Some just want to be a "normal Christian". But the Bible describes the normal Christian as someone who is dedicated to God. Or we say, "I will just repent on my deathbed" ...but for real Christians, repentance is part of daily living. You may be "good" in this world's eyes, but are you pleasing to God? Paul addresses these reasons for compromise in our Christian life (**1 Corinthians 9:23**). Paul made that choice to Live for God's Glory which is to desire God's will, follow His ways and give my all for Him. How do we do this?

1. Live for His Mission (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

For some of us, God's mission is not our primary mission. It's our careers, our families, our business. Those are all good things, but they should just be our secondary mission. If Jesus is our Master, then His mission is our primary mission (**Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 1:16**). That's why Paul was so passionate about excelling in what he does for God's glory (**Acts 20:24**). Excel at your profession and use that as a platform to proclaim the gospel! God wants us to be good role models to other people. People will see how you excel and be blessed by your life. Use the opportunities and gifts God has given you to accomplish God's mission.

2. Live in Obedience (1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

Sometimes we think that as long as we do certain Christian practices, we are okay (going to church, attending Dgroup, giving tithes, serving in ministry, etc.). There are those serving in ministry who are not living a life of obedience (ex: King Saul in **1 Samuel 15:22**). We are to serve and live a life of obedience. Paul addressed this with the Corinthian church (**1 Corinthians 10:1-4, Acts 4:11-12**), they knew about these things that God has done for the Israelites, and what He has done for them in Christ. Yet like the Israelites, God is not "well-pleased" with those who do not live in obedience to Him even after experiencing His mighty works (**1 Corinthians 10:5**). God wants us and our ministries to be pleasing to the Lord. If my life id not pleasing to God, then I am against Him! Yes, God loves us but God is also just...and we need to know that and necessary to wake us up from a life not pleasing to God. We have examples in the past when the Israelites went back to their idols and God had to discipline them (**1 Corinthians 10:6-12, Exodus 32:1-6**). Paul leaves them with a warning to "take heed" so they will not fall. God sends rebukes, warning signs and He will break us if we do not repent. Sometimes it becomes necessary for God to break us because that's the only time we will change. But when we struggle,

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God promises to give us a way out of temptation (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). There's always something we can do to escape because God is faithful.

Worship without obedience is not worship at all because God wants us to be right with Him.

3. Live with Whole-Hearted Devotion (1 Corinthians 10:14-31)

This is the key to the first two points; you will not live for His mission and live in obedience to God if you don't love Him with all your heart. Our problem is that there are times that something or someone is more important for us than God. That's why Paul reminds the Corinthians how they have already experienced God's love and fellowship with Him through the Lord's Supper, etc. and they should not go back to "idols" who are not truly gods, but demons (**1 Corinthians 10:14-22**). You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of demons at the same time.

In our culture today, there are practices and places that are rooted in demonic principles. So here are questions to guide us and help us become wise in our choices:

- 1 - Why do I still go to places that can lead me to immoral acts?
- 2 - Why do you watch shows that you know are tempting you to do your favorite sin?
- 3 - Why do you spend so much time with people that you know are leading you farther away from God?
- 4 - Why do you do certain practices that you know are hurting the Lord and will hurt you in the end?
- 5 - Why do you keep listening to people who sound good but are making your views about God and life wrong?

We do not have to be paranoid avoiding all things we might consider wrong or "evil" --- and not impose our own convictions on everyone. But be careful not to violate the conscience of others because of your freedom. Be willing to be the one to adjust to win unbelievers for the gospel and whatever we do must be for God's glory (**1 Corinthians 10:23-31**).

There are people today willing to die for their destructive ideology, thinking it will win in the end. But we live for God because He made the greatest act of love on the cross of Christ. Jesus died and rose again --- He is the only true God who gives the gift of eternal life. Choose to live for God's glory because of who He is and because He wins in the end. Live for God's glory!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Based on Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, how can we live a life that glorifies God?

2. Setting It Right.

What are the things hindering you to live for God's glory?

3. Living It Out.

What do you think can help you live a life that pleases the Lord?

4. Why should we live our life for God's glory?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people in your life who pursue other things other than God's glory. Share why we ought to live for God's glory because of Jesus. Live for God's mission; share the gospel to them and help them get into a Dgroup that will help them live in obedience to God and be devoted to Him wholeheartedly.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's help and comfort, salvation for Israel, wisdom for their leaders in government, military and their soldiers as they defend themselves against terrorists' attacks. Rescue of the Israelites taken as hostages.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; conflict in African, East Asian and Middle East countries to stop.

III. Church

- CCFers would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

MEMORY VERSE

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

³¹ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.