

Freedom & Responsibility

Discipleship Lessons:

- Christian liberty carries with it a great degree of responsibility.
 - Christian liberty should not cause anyone else to sin.
 - Christian liberty should bring glory to God.
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Paul list 3 warnings in this chapter:

Warning 1: Christian privilege is not a guarantee of salvation. (1-4)

Warning 2: A good beginning does not guarantee a good end. (5-12)

Warning 3: Temptation can only be overcome if we obey the Word of God. (13-22)

Vvs 1-4. Israel had a great history with God, and they enjoyed many privileges; but Christian privilege is not a guarantee of salvation.

- a. The greatest danger to the mature believer is over confidence.
- b. Paul refers to the Red Sea and the desert wanderings as Israel communed with God, then he compares it to the Lord's Supper. (Compare and contrast the manna and water in the desert with the communion meal.)

V4. Paul makes it clear that Jesus has always been the rock of our salvation. Explain

V5. Many of Israelites were destroyed in the wilderness. Moses, Aaron, and Miriam were disqualified from entering the Promised Land with the nation. A good beginning does not always equate to a good ending.

V6. God provides us with examples to follow the good and to discard the bad.

Vvs. 7-11. Poor examples from Israel's past: idolatry, fornication, tempting Christ, murmuring.

V12. What attitude often precedes a fall?

V13. What two promises do we have from God when we are faced with temptations?

V16. Describe the symbolism in the Lord's Supper, and why is it symbolic?

V21. Describe the conflict in this verse and what does it lead to in the life of a believer?

V23. In considering Christian behavior, what must be the two determining factors?

Christian liberty and responsibility must be balanced. (Verses 24-33)

V24. Every Christian must seek the welfare of one another.

Vvs. 25-26. When a believer is invited to a private meal the believer should not inquire about the origin of the food.

V27. When a believer is invited to an unbeliever's home the believer should eat what's placed before him without asking questions.

V28. If a younger believer is invited to the same home, and the younger believer mentions that the meal is offensive to the faith; then the mature believer must not eat so as to not offend the younger believer.

- Why should I not enjoy food for which I've given thanks?
- Why should my liberty be curtailed because of another person's immaturity?
- At what point does my liberty begin to intrude on another person's faith?

V32. The Christian lifestyle should not cause others to stumble.

V33. Paul is not compromising, but he is affirming his belief system.

When a Christian is making decisions concerning conduct the following must be considered.

- ✓ **Will it be liberating or cause additional slavery?**
- ✓ **Will it make a stumbling block or a stepping stone?**
- ✓ **Will it please me only or glorify Christ?**
- ✓ **Will it help to win the lost or turn them away?**