

# What Really Matters?

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1  
Week of August 27, 2023

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## BELONG

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**Ask this Ice Breaker Question:** Growing up, who were the “heroes” that you most imitated? Parents? Relatives? Celebrities?

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## BELIEVE

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**Have someone in your group read aloud: 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1**

**Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:**

**1. Paul concludes this section in 11:1, “Be imitators of me, as I imitate Christ.” Why do you suppose that imitation is such a necessary skill for believers?**

Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

*Answers might include:*

- Not only do we constantly imitate Christ in his character, competency, and calling, but we become a model of imitation for those who are being led by us (Our kids, members of our life groups, people we are influencing for Christ).
- Often, we don’t know what to do. So naturally we turn to people in our church community to ask for their advice. Thus, imitation is a key component of our discipleship.

**2. What do you find is the most challenging aspect of imitating Christ? What do you find is the most enjoyable aspect of imitating Christ?**

Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

*Answers might include:*

- Challenging aspects might include:
  - Moral choices. It is not always easy to make the right moral choice in word, action, and attitude.
  - Moral Example. We don’t always enjoy being the moral example because...what if we mess up?

- Saying no. Sometimes we have to say no and that is not always the most fun.
- Enjoyable aspects might include:
  - Prayer before meals.
  - Quiet times of reflection and journaling.
  - Pouring into or investing in another person through Bible study or prayer groups.

**3. One specific way that Paul asks us to imitate him is in the area of Christian liberty. He argues that *everything is permissible, but that not every permissible thing is beneficial*. Do you see this kind of liberty practiced well by Christians you know? Do you see this kind of liberty practiced in church life?**

Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

Christian liberties typically arise whenever there is a culture war discussion in church life. Examples might include:

- Alcohol and tobacco consumption
- Film and television habits
- Coarse language and joking
- Social media habits

The question almost always centers on Paul's teaching: Does this thing help me as I am following Jesus? Is alcohol helping me? Is tobacco helping? Is this show I am watching helping me stay focused on Christ? Is my social media time helping me follow Christ?

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**BECOME:**

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**4. Is there anything in your life that may be a blind spot with respect to the permissible/beneficial dynamic of Christian liberties? Is there anything you are struggling with that your group can help you think through in a way that is edifying?**