



# Small Group Discussion

To “edify” is a term used in construction for building a home. It means to increase the potential of someone or something, with focus upon the process involved—‘to strengthen, to make more able, to build up.’<sup>1</sup>

*What is a decision you have to make about your future? How do the 2 criteria Paul gives above help you in that decision?*

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**Now, we move from what was once permissible to what is profitable**

**READ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:27-30**

**Background:** The issue of meat sacrificed to idols was a historical issue for the Corinthian Church. Just as in Hebrew worship in the Temple, the Greek religions offered animals to their gods. Once part of the animal was burned as a sacrifice to the god, the rest of the animal would be sold in the market at a lower price than animals butchered for the market. Those devoted to the god would buy the meat at the Temple markets and eat it as part of a sacred meal similar to our communion. Those who left these false religions to follow Christ took some time to move from eating the Temple market meat as part of their worship of that false god.

Paul taught believers that they could eat that meat without worshiping the false god, however, if a new believer saw them eat that meat and took their freedom to eat it as a temptation for them to partake in their former worship of the pagan god, then the mature believer should sacrifice their freedom to eat that meat while the new believer is present.

*What kind of issues could a mature believer practice that might cause a new believer to fall back into a past bad habit?*

Leaders’ Guide WARNING! This could divert your group into a “lively” disagreement. You know your group, and those in it, but here are some ideas: **Alcohol, Secular Music, Movies, Tabaco...**

Some activities are permissible in one environment and not in others (e.g. Parents of children will keep some things out of their home when children are growing up, but practice them when their children grow up).

We have moved from activities we want to do, to how they affect others, but now the supreme motivation....

## Moving From Caring About People to Loving God

**READ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:28-31**

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<sup>1</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament : Based on Semantic Domains*, electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible societies, 1996).

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There is a problem with going too far with limiting your activities based on the impact it will have on others. Some Christians will use this responsibility to manipulate others (“changing the worship style in Church will cause me to stumble!”). Stumbling cause them to leave Christ, not just become angry.

*In 10:31, what is the ultimate motivation of everything that we do?*

*What do you think it means to glorify God in your eating and drinking?*

To glorify God means to magnify His character, works and plan. So in this context, to glorify God is in contrast to being motivated by spending your life controlled by what others think of you, or by what you can achieve on your own. The goal of life is to love God and to point others to loving Christ. Therefore, rather than being called to keep others from stumbling, sometimes you glorify God by offending others.

## Cultivate Intimacy

**READ: Ephesians 4:20-24**

*What are the three actions in this section (1 in 23, 1 in 24 & 1 in 25)*

**Throw off, renew your thoughts and put on.** Paul uses words that describe a man taking off filthy clothes, taking a bath and putting on clean clothes.

Paul follows this command with a section of examples of old habits exposed, God’s character, and the new action expected of a Christ follower (4:25-32).

*What ways do you use to discover harmful attitudes and actions in you?* There are many ways, the primary is personal Bible reading, Worship, Bible teaching, godly friends, prayer, Christian books....

*Does your time in the Bible or listening to a message on Sunday result in you removing an old habit and replacing it with a godly attitude or action? What is an example of that recently?*

**READ: James 1:22–24** “But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.” (NLT)

**How can you move from a listener of the Word on weekends, or in your personal Bible reading to a doer this week?**

**Recommendation:** The Growth Class called “Habits” teaches the S.O.A.P. tool for Bible reading that will help you move from just reading Scripture to transformation of your attitudes & actions. Consider taking this class starting in January 2012.

Check out the **Unburdened** website that will help you through this series at [www.unburdened.me](http://www.unburdened.me)

