

Should I or Shouldn't I (1)

1 Corinthians 8

Three kinds of determinants for sinful behavior:

- Laws of God (10 Comm., Gal. 5:19-21) "Thou Shalt Not" ...
- Principles of God – (Rom. 12:2, 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Gal. 5:22-23, Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 3:1-2) – Godliness or Holiness is our goal
- Personal convictions – "a firmly held belief or opinion"

How to handle Godly disagreements about issues of conscience between believers:

- Understand that your love for one another is more important than your knowledge of one another. (vv. 1-3) **"Why?"**
 - Knowledge strengthens our ego, but love strengthens the church.
 - Our knowledge is limited. (background, intention, etc.)
 - Love is what God recognizes.
- Understand that everyone does not have the same knowledge or understanding on all matters of conscience. (vv. 4-8)
 - An idol is not really a God at all.
 - What we eat does not determine our stance with God. (Matt. 15:1-11, Acts 10:9-16, Rom. 14:14)
- Understand your freedom in Jesus should not be exercised if it causes others to stumble. (vv. 9-13, Rom. 14:13-18)
 - Our actions affect others. (how is the question)
 - Our sinful actions against others are sins against God.

Points to Ponder:

- Not all issues of conscience are sinful, understand that!
- There will be people that will disagree with you on issues of conscience, accept that!
- We are all supposed to be sensitive to others with regard to their conscience, be aware of that!
- We are not supposed to be the reason somebody stumbles by violating their conscience, be cautious of that!