1 Corinthians 10:14-33

To God be the Glory!

I. Intro: Slide #1
A. This is dated...but still applicable. Some men become proud and insolent because they ride a fine horse, wear a feather in their hat or are dressed in a fine suit of clothes. Who does not see the folly of this? If there be any glory in such things, the glory belongs to the horse, the bird and the tailor. St. Francis de Sales

B. Last Week: Paul explained that the ancient Israelites had God’s miraculous Presence, Protection, & Provision. Yet, an entire generation died-en-route to the promise land…because of disobedience.

1. The Corinthian believers also needed to take heed to taking advantage of their liberties, lest they also fall short of God’s best for them.

II. Slide #2 FELLOWSHIP OR FRIENDSHIP? (14-22)
A. Slide #3 (14) Flee from idolatry - I think of a flea that can jump 7”(h) & 13”(frwd), thus 200 x’s its bodies length.

B. (16) It all starts at the cross! - Always start at Calvary.

1. Our Communion is at Calvary, but our Contact must be w/the world. Our fellowship is w/the Lord Jesus, but our friendship is for those who do not know the Savior.

2. If a Christian moves in ungodly circles, has social contact with them, even an occasional meal, often times he may be accused of “fellowshipping” with unbelievers. But, it is nothing of the sort.

   a) Your fellowship can stay at Calvary & your heart stay tune w/God, while you seek to win souls for Him!

3. We need to learn to live in separation to God.

   a) This is something only you & I can discern personally, when we are right before God regarding this.

   b) If while moving in ungodly circles, I find my heart going out to the things they enjoy, I must quickly put a stop to it!

   c) You can’t belong to Christ & live in the enemy’s camp!

      (1) David tried it for a while at Achish, before the king of Gath, when Saul was chasing him. Of course, remember what he had to do to pull this off. So he changed his behavior before them, feigned madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard.

   d) Remember God called us to separation but not isolation!
C. (21,22) Any places you shouldn’t be frequenting?

1. Any tables you shouldn’t be sitting at?
   a) Slide #4 Here we have Satan’s communion service! (as he has a counterfeit church & gospel, so he has a counterfeit communion service!)
   b) Why are Bars & Night clubs so successful? They provide “fellowship”. Everyone knows your name. Free to be yourself. It’s everything the church should have been for them or probably failed to be in their time of need. Maybe they were judged rather than listened to? And so, the Churches communion feast of wine & bread is replaced for Beer & Nuts at the local bar. :( 

2. How are you doing with both of these categories? – Who are you Fraternizing with?
   a) Do you still have friends in the world? or have you so distanced yourself, it’s almost impossible to have an impact on anyone?
   b) Do you have fellowship w/Christians? or are all your friends still your old friends of the world?

(1) Which of these 2 could you work on this week?

III. Slide #5 TO GOD BE THE GLORY! (23-33)

A. (23) Not all things edify/build you up!

1. Remember you are on the King’s business & He grants no vacations from holy living!
   a) Yet it is not only about Holy living for God could just bring us home for that, but he also seeks to save those that are lost…through & I! [be concerned about your testimony!]

B. Does it past the Test?

1. Slide #6 THE WORLD TEST. Will it make me worldly to do it? (1John 2:15–17)
2. THE QUALITY TEST. Is it good for me physically, emotionally, & spiritually? (Rom. 12:9b)
3. THE TEMPLE TEST. Can I do it when I remember my body is God’s temple and must not be marred or misused? (1Cor.6:19)
4. THE GLORY TEST. Will it glorify my Lord, or will it on the other hand possibly bring shame to His name? (1Cor.6:20, 10:32)
5. THE BLESSING TEST. Can I honestly ask God’s blessing on it and be sure I’ll not regret doing it? (Prov.10:22, Rom.15:29)
6. THE REPUTATION TEST. Is it apt to damage my testimony for the Lord?(Phil. 2:15)
7. THE CONSIDERATION TEST. Am I being considerate of others and the effect this might have on them? (Rom.14:7, 21)

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1 Taken from Basic Bible Beliefs, Bible Baptist Church, Auburn, Wh.,1975, unpublished, Eugene A. Wood, DTS, ThM Thesis, 1980
8. **THE APPEARANCE TEST.** Will it look bad? Does it have the appearance of what is wrong or suspicious? (1 Thes.5:22)

9. **THE WEIGHT TEST.** Could this slacken or sidetrack me in running the Christian race? (Heb.12:1, 1 Cor. 9:24)

10. **THE COMING OF CHRIST TEST.** Would I be ashamed to be found doing this when He comes again (1 John 2:28)?

11. **THE COMPANION TEST.** Can I invite Christ to go with me and participate with me in this (Matt. 28:20b, Col. 3:17)?

12. **THE PEACE TEST.** After having prayed about it, do I have perfect peace about doing it (Col. 3:15a, Phil. 4:6–7)?

C. **Slide #7** Now Paul draws back his arrow in his bow & strikes his mark!
   1. **Slide #8** Explain the parts of an arrow: nock - fletching(vanes) - shaft - head.
   2. Explain the fletching of an arrow: Toward back of arrow; feather or plastic; provides a little drag to stabilize the flight. Purpose: control the roll, pitch, & the yaw.

D. **Slide #9 1st Feather: Live Sacrificially for others!** (23,24)
   1. God did not only save you that you might serve Him, but that you might live before this fallen world as an example, & a witness of a changed life.
   2. If your 1st concern is the spiritual wealth of the person before you, then you need not worry about stumbling anyone.
      a) The shaft of an arrow must follow the pointed head!
      b) Hey, how about carrying out this truth(vs.24) in our conversations? Want to lose friends, just keep talking about you, your problems, your life, your work, your family issues, & your hobbies, you, you, you...ad-infinitum, ad-nauseam.
      c) **Read Story** (below)

E. **Slide #10 2nd Feather:** Don’t be so fussy...you can’t live in the real world & make real decisions! (25-27)
   1. Stop being “Glass Christians” (so fragile) [plasticize yourself!] {blessed r the flexible}
   2. **Slide #11 Plasticize** verb, make plastic or moldable, esp. by the addition of a plasticize

F. **Slide #12 3rd Feather:** Don’t practice License, in the name of Christian Liberty! (28-31)

G. (31) **His Glory** should be our Single Aspiration!
   1. **Slide #13** The 3 flight-stabilizing vanes of the arrow, now strike their mark in vs.31!
      a) We are not to make a mark, a name, or a reputation, for ourselves...but for Him!
b) Not, make a mark, a name, or a reputation for Brian (wow, look how holy he is!)

H. (Oswald Chambers, Nov.16th)
The great marvel of the Incarnation slips into ordinary childhood’s life;
the great marvel of the Transfiguration vanishes in the devil-possessed valley;
the glory of the Resurrection descends into a breakfast on the sea-shore.
This is not an anti-climax, but a great revelation of God!!!

1. It is one thing to go through a crisis grandly, but another thing to go through every
day glorifying God when there is no witness, no limelight, no one paying the
remotest attention to us.

2. We might no longer seek mediaeval haloes, but we want something that will make
people say...What a man of prayer he is! (he prays in Old King James!)
What a devoted woman she is! (she goes to 2 bible studies a week!)

   a) It takes Almighty God Incarnate in us to do the most trivial duty to the glory of God.
   b) It takes God’s Spirit in us to make us so absolutely humanly His...that we are utterly
      unnoticeable.
   c) Our aim? to manifest the glory of God in everyday life; to live the life hid with Christ in
      God in all human conditions.

I. The shallow concerns of life are ordained of God; they are as much of God as the profound.

1. The shallow things of life, eating and drinking, walking and talking, driving to work,
doing laundry...are all ordained by God.

2. These are the things in which Our Lord lived. He lived in them as the Son of God.
   And He said that "the disciple is not above his Master."

J. (32,33) There are only 3 groups of people in this world: the Jews, the Gentiles, & the Church.

1. End times debates: large part depends on your understanding of Israel.
   a) God is through with Israel, as the church is now spiritual Israel? Or,
      God is not through with Israel & the church is new & distinct from Israel?

K. 3 groups of people in this world:

1. Slide #14 The Jews - the nation that sprang from Abraham. The chosen earthly
   people of God. This nation has been miraculously preserved to the present time &
will yet be the dominant, glorified people of the earth in the coming kingdom age.
   a) Only nation to be a nation, not be a nation, & then be a nation again(1948). (same with
      Hebrew language)
   b) God has given eternal promises/covenants with Israel. Including: a National entity (Jer.
      31:36); a land (Gen.31:15); a throne (2Sam.7:13); a king (Jer.33:20,21); a kingdom
      (2Sam.7:16).
   c) 4 words have been used to describe the out-working of the divine purpose in this people:
(1) Chosen - Scattered - Gathered - Blessed (They were chosen; are now scattered; yet to be gathered & blessed)

2. Slide #15 The Gentiles - Have lived on earth from Adam until now. All humans excluding the Israelites.
   a) OT prophecies predict great earthly blessings to come upon the Gentiles, in the yet future kingdom on the earth.

3. Slide #16,17 The Church of God -
   a) Refers, not to membership of organized churches, but to the whole company of the redeemed who will have been saved in the present age. They have been…
      (1) Born again & have entered into the kingdom of God (Jn.3:5)
      (2) They are no longer “in Adam” but are “in Christ” partaking in the new creation of all Christ is in His Resurrection life & glory.
      (3) In the sight of God their nationality is changed, for they have come upon new ground where there is neither Jew or Gentile, but Christ is all in all.
         (a) God expects The Church to win Jews & Gentiles to the Lord.
      (4) They are now citizens of heaven. All their promises, their possessions, & their position are heavenly.

Long before the House of God was built, two brothers are said to have lived on Mount Moriah. One was a single man; the other had a wife and family. These two exemplified brotherly love. They lived together in complete unity. They shared the same house without dissension. Every morning, they got up early and shared the tedious work of farming the hill.

Soon, it was time to harvest. The sheaves were gathered and carefully divided into two identical piles. Each brother would garner an equal share in the fruit of their labors. When finished, the two brothers returned home to rest in preparation for the difficult day of threshing ahead.

The unmarried brother had a fit of conscience. Later that night, he returned to the threshing floor and carefully redistributed the harvest. His heart was pure. He reduced his portion of the sheaves to make his brother’s pile larger, thinking, “It is neither right nor necessary for me to keep an equal portion of God’s bounty. My brother is a good man caring for a wife and family. It is better that he receive a bigger portion.” Then he quietly returned to bed.

Shortly thereafter, the married brother awoke. He told his wife, “My darling, things are not right. It is unfair that my brother has an equal share of the harvest. I already receive a greater share of happiness because of the love I have from you and our children. My brother has neither.” So they quietly went to
the threshing floor and together, they transferred a portion of their sheaves to the pile of the single brother.

When daylight came, the two brothers went to thresh the sheaves. As they reached the threshing floor, both brothers were amazed. Each pile was again equal! Perplexed, they quietly finished their work and went home. That night, each brother determined to return to the threshing floor to bless the other. God’s timing is always perfect. So it was again that quiet night. The two brothers arrived simultaneously. In an instant, they both understood the other’s heart. Embracing, they gave each other a kiss of brotherly love.