

LAYING DOWN OUR RIGHTS

But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.
—1 CORINTHIANS 8:9

[Read the remainder of chapter 10, beginning with the heading "Laying Down Our Rights."]

OUR LIBERTY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US FOR SERVING AND LAYING down our lives. We are to build and not destroy, to edify and not tear down. This liberty was not given to enable us to heap gain upon ourselves. Because we have used it in this manner, many today are offended by the lifestyles of Christians. We may have the freedom in Christ to do many things, but if something will offend another person, then we must carefully consider voluntarily limiting ourselves in order to witness to others.

Do the things I do seek the edification of another or myself?

Make a list of things that you have voluntarily stopped doing so that you will not offend or be a stumbling block to others.

I have given up the right to:

So as not to offend:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>argue</u> | <u>others</u> |
| <u>being negative</u> | <u>others</u> |
| <u>be mad if something is stolen</u> | <u>others</u> |
| <u>say what I want</u> | <u>others</u> |
| <u>not get angry</u> | <u>others</u> |
| <u>not forgive</u> | |

WRITE A LETTER

write and
write and
to forgive

please,
I you do
then

d.
the
to find

girl

it you
give-

ill

Writing that to enable you to write forgive the world with these phrases
and to show you will be able to receive that forgiveness

Dear Bob help me to receive the
forgiveness the people who have
hurt me. So I will be able to receive your
forgiveness. Amen

How do we know what freedoms and rights we need to set aside in order to win others to Christ? I suggest applying what I call the "edification test."

The apostle Paul, in writing to the Romans, summed up the heart of God in the matter: "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19). What we do may even be permissible according to the Scriptures. But ask yourself: Does it seek the edification of another or myself?

Read the following passage slowly. Underline every part that is hard for you to do. Circle the part that you need to start doing immediately.

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being... Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

—1 CORINTHIANS 10:23-24, 31-33

Allow the Holy Spirit to funnel every area of your life through this Scripture passage. Allow Him to show you any hidden motives or agendas that are for your profit and not for the profit of others. No matter what area of life you might embrace, accept His challenge to live as a servant of all.

WRITE A PRAYER...

Asking the Lord to show you anything in your life that may be a stumbling block to others, and then remove it.

*Dear Lord, show me anything in my life that may be a stumbling block to others and then remove it. Thank you Lord in advance.
Amen*

THE BAIT OF SATAN DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDE

faithful even when we are faithless. He walks at a level of truth and integrity that transcends our culture or society. So when Jesus said, "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses," He meant it.

Set down what Jesus had to say about forgiveness in the Gospels.

Matthew 6:14-15

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Luke 6:37

That we are not to judge or we will be judged. If we want to be forgiven we must forgive. To treat people the way we want to be treated.

Matthew 6:12

and forgive us our debts. As we forgive those who trespass against us, we must forgive.

Are you taking Jesus seriously? Are you forgiving others so that you might receive forgiveness? When your heart is filled with unforgiveness, then there is no room in it to receive God's forgiveness.

yes I'm taking Jesus seriously. I am forgiving others so I will be forgiven. I am leading by example for my kids & the world.