

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment. Just because you can do something doesn't mean it's wise to do it.

We Christians come in all shapes and sizes, don't we? We have different worship styles. We don't all share the same convictions. We're not all from the same socioeconomic category. We're different colors. We have different customs. Even our lifestyles are different. There is such diversity within the body of Christ. We're free to be different. But, with freedom also comes responsibility, and that's the point of 1 Corinthians chapter 10, verses 23 through 24.

Listen to these wonderfully balanced words. “All things are lawful but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own good but that of his neighbor.”

These two verses give us the creed of “community,” so to speak. Maybe we *can* do things, but *should* we do them?

There are two guiding principles when we exercise our freedom and they are right in these verses I just read. Number one, there has to be a general consideration of others. It's not just about me flaunting my individual freedom in Christ but how does my freedom impact those that don't have convictions that will allow them to do what I'm doing? Secondly, we need to contribute to the development of others. That's the little word “edify.” I need to make sure that what I do is building up other people. That's more important. My freedom is important. Certainly I can exercise my distinctiveness and my liberty in Christ, but not to the point where it pulls someone else down. We need to invest in their growth and development.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Christianity was never meant to be lived in isolation. We're members of a community, and we must exercise our freedom with maturity and respect for others.