

Real Ministry

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

¹And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. ²I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

¹¹For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is *to be* revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

Simple truth: God is going to judge our works. Some will be acceptable. Some won't.

In the following passages, what qualifier makes a work acceptable or not?

1 Cor. 3:11-12 - _____

Gal. 6:7-8 - _____

Phil. 2:13 - _____

Col. 1:10 - _____

Col. 3:17 - _____

Matt. 21:28-31 - _____

1 Tim. 5:10 (ex.) - _____

List your top three activities in the table below:

Then enter the end result or purpose of each in the second column.

For each activity, state whether or not it will endure the fire of God's judgment.

Activity	End Result	Will it last?
1		
2		
3		

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Real Humility

1 Corinthians 4:7-16

⁷For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? ⁸You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and *I* would indeed that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you. ⁹For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. ¹¹To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; ¹²and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; ¹³when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, *even* until now. ¹⁴I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would* not *have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶I exhort you therefore, be imitators of me.

Humility: Realizing that God and others are actually responsible for all my accomplishments.

Humiliation: A proud person being embarrassed.

Pride: A dishonest assessment of one's importance, place, achievements, abilities, and worth.

List some situations when you are tempted to be proud:

Break into groups and discuss the lessons from the assigned passage:

Luke 22:25-27

Luke 14:7-11

Luke 12:16-21

What is the overall message related to pride?

Any particular people especially implicated in the passage?

How can this be applied to our lives?

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Real Accountability

1 Corinthians 5

¹It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.
²And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst. ³For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. ⁴In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵*I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. ⁶Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough*?
⁷Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. ⁸Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
⁹I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰*I did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. ¹¹But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one. ¹²For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? ¹³But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

The overall theme of this passage is: _____

What specific moral issues does Paul list?

Is that list exhaustive? _____

What is the action Paul requires? _____

Are there any exemptions from this rule? ____ If so, who? _____

What detailed instructions does Jesus give in Mt. 18:15-17?

Do we practice this today? ____ How or why not? _____

How does the idea of community fit into this discussion? _____

What difference might it make in your life if we practiced this principle?

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Real Accountability – Pt. 2

1 Corinthians 5:7-13

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What historical fact can you infer from verse 9? _____

Group 1 – Accountability within the community

Is accountability for Christians taught in this passage?

What things are necessary for accountability?

Whose responsibility is it to become accountable?

What are the benefits of accountability?

Is accountability an automatic part of our church / SS class?

What can we do to make it more so?

Group 2 – Accountability and the unrepentant

What should be our actions toward one in the church who is living in open sin?

What should we do if they will not repent?

Should we give up on them?

What can we do to try to win them back?

What is the danger we should avoid?

Can you give any examples of such a situation? What was the outcome?

Group 3 – Accountability and the lost

Is there any accountability for the lost in this passage?

In the mean time, how are we to treat lost people?

What should we think when someone who is not a believer acts offensively?

What should we do in such a case?

What actions will bring the person closer to knowing Christ?

What actions will push them away?

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Real Freedom

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

¹²All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but **I will not be mastered by anything.** ¹³Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body. ¹⁴Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May it never be! ¹⁶Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body *with her*? For He says, "THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH." ¹⁷But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. ¹⁸Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹**Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?** ²⁰**For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**

What is the world's definition of freedom? _____

What is freedom? _____

Are you free? _____

What can a person be "mastered" by? _____

What do the following passages say about freedom?

Jn 8:31-36 - _____

Rom 6:14-23 - _____

Gal. 5:13 - _____

1 Pet 2:16 - _____

2 Pet 2:19b-20 - _____

How can you know if you are "mastered" by something? _____

Are you really free? _____

Is there an activity, pursuit, or substance you cannot completely resist? _____

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Real Responsibility

1 Corinthians 7

¹Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. ²But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. ³Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. ⁵Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

¹⁰But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband ¹¹(but if she does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not send his wife away.

¹²But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, let him not send her away. ¹³And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, let her not send her husband away. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

²⁹But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; ³⁰and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; ³¹and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

³²But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; ³³but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, ³⁴and *his interests* are divided. And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. ³⁵And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and *to secure* undistracted devotion to the Lord.

What is your stated responsibility to your spouse? _____

How is the context of this passage relevant to this responsibility? _____

What circumstances make this easier / harder to fulfill? _____

What does verse 4 mean? _____

What is your stated responsibility to your family? _____

Read verses 10-16. What possible reason is given for leaving? _____

What reasons are given for staying? _____

What is your stated responsibility to God? (vs. 35) _____

What are things that can get in the way? _____

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Real Evangelism

What is the Gospel worth?

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

¹⁹For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. ²⁰And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law; ²¹to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some. ²³And I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

²⁴Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

In what "Olympic game" does Paul compete? _____

Who had God called Paul to evangelize? _____

What did Paul do to increase the possibility of winning someone? _____

How does this relate to our lesson on freedom from 1 Cor. 6:12? _____

From whose perspective must the freedom be viewed? _____

What can you do to increase the possibility of winning someone? _____

Should we put more effort into all of our selfish, earthly pursuits than that of evangelism? _____

What are "freedoms" that can limit or disqualify our witness? _____

Who has God called you to evangelize? _____

Are you fully engaged in the race? ____ Is there anything in your life that is limiting your ability to evangelize your target "people group?" _____

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[Read letter from Andrew.]

[Read 24-27]

In what "Olympic game" does Paul compete? **Evangelism** (from context)

Who had God called Paul to evangelize? **Gentiles, Jews, Weak**

[Say, "Be thinking about who God has called *you* to evangelize."]

What did Paul do to increase the possibility of winning someone? **Became like them.**

["Did he fake it? Was it a matter of acting or making it up?"] **No, he was just making the most of who he was. He allowed God to use all of him.**

["This is an important point: **God has given you talents, hobbies, experience, opportunities, and problems to give you an entry point for witnessing and ministry.**"] Story about Tim.]

["Does the idea of being 'all things to all men' relate to our lesson on freedom from 1 Cor. 6:12?"]

^{6:12}All things are lawful for me, **but not all things are profitable.** All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

^{10:23}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.**]

How does this relate to our lesson on freedom from 1 Cor. 6:12? **Something may be OK, but that doesn't make it the beneficial thing to do.**

From whose perspective [or benefit] must the freedom be viewed? **The person being ministered to.**

["This can be hard for some and you have to find God's balance."]

Compare Tenna and me. Read 10:33-11:1.

^{10:33}just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of the many, that they may be saved. ^{11:1}¶Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

"Liberty is not license to do something, but to do it or not equally." Lenski – "Not blind liberty, but intelligent liberty. Doing what is best for those involved."]

What can you do to increase the possibility of winning someone? **Become more like them. Emphasize the "them" in you.**

Should we put more effort into all of our selfish, earthly pursuits than that of evangelism? **Yes.**

What are "freedoms" that can limit or disqualify our witness? **Social acceptability, culture, alcohol, dress, language, pursuing \$, social status**

Who has God called you to evangelize? _____

Are you fully engaged in the race? ____ Is there anything in your life that is limiting your ability to evangelize your target "people group?" _____

What is the Gospel worth?

Real Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:1-14

¹For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³and all ate the same spiritual food; ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved. ⁷And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." ⁸Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. ⁹Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. ¹⁰Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. ¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

(Vs. 6) What sin did the Israelites commit in Num. 11:4-6? _____

(Vs. 7) What sin did the Israelites commit in Ex. 32:1-6? _____

(Vs. 8) What sin did the Israelites commit in Num. 25:1-9? _____

(Vs. 9) What sin did the Israelites commit in Num. 21:4-9? _____

(Vs. 10) What sin did the Israelites commit in Num. 16:1-11? _____

(Vs. 11) Why did those things happen? _____

(Vs. 12) What is the warning to us? _____

What is the promise of v13? _____

Four key points in v13:

What are the biggest temptations we face today? _____

In small groups, discuss what we can do to avoid and overcome them.

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Real Love

1 Corinthians 13

¹If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind, *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, ⁵does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, ⁶does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away.

⁹For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. ¹¹When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.

¹³But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

What is the bottom line truth from verses 1-3? _____

Take your assigned description of Love from verses 4-7 and do the following:

Write 10 (yes ten!!!) different ways you can express Love as described in your particular phrase to your child(ren):

Write 10 different ways you can express Love as described in your particular phrase to your spouse:

From verses 8-13, why is Love the greatest? _____

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Real Victory

1 Corinthians 15

¹²Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵Moreover we are even found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. ⁵⁵"O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

Consider the philosophy of some: that even if we find out after we die that the Bible was wrong (and there is no afterlife), it is still beneficial to live a Christian life.

Read verses 12-19 and 32. Compare and contrast the philosophy with the passage. _____

What is the meaning of verse 33 in the context of verse 32? _____

What do you think of when you think about death? _____

What is the victory Paul is talking about? _____

Define: Steadfast _____ Unmovable _____
Abounding _____ Labor (Toil) _____

Are you abounding in the work of the Lord? ____ What work? _____

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