

STANDING FIRM IN A DECAYING WORLD

“The Grey Areas of Life”

1 Corinthians 8

September 18, 2011 PM Service

Introduction to Chapters 8-10 - Paul answers some specific questions about questionable practices, those gray areas not specifically addressed in Scripture that were posed to him by the Church at Corinth. They asked great questions and Paul answered them in a way that has relevance to them and also to us. What about those grey areas of life?

ILLUS: **Make a list of those things we agree** – black and white about Scripture – Those that are always wrong for everyone – and then those that are right for everyone – those we disagree on are then the grey areas. Take those under the heading – things which seem wrong to some Christians but not to all. Those gray issues of the Christian Life that Scripture isn't as clear on or doesn't address specifically. What about drinking, smoking, dancing, playing sports on Sunday, shopping on Sunday, styles of music, movie choices, betting on sports, places we should go and not go... and there are many more that we could take a look at. What are we to do about these?

Our Right – We are Free in Christ

[John 8:31-32](#); [2 Corinthians 3:17](#); [Galatians 5:1](#)

Our freedom in Christ is not an unbridled license. It is never freedom to sin, and often it should exclude things that in themselves are not sin but that may become sin or lead others to sin. [1 Peter 2:16](#)

The Extremes: Legalism Versus License

Legalism believes that every act, habit, type of behavior is either black or white. They live by rules rather than by the Spirit. Everything is classified as black and white, have an exhaustive list of do's and don'ts. Lives are law controlled and not Spirit controlled. The focus is on the external and not the internal.

License goes the opposite way – it has no grey areas, but neither does it have much white – everything is acceptable as long as it is not strictly forbidden by Scripture. Freedom is virtually absolute and unqualified. As long as your own conscience is free, you can do as you please. [Acts 24:16](#). Beyond that, they wanted no restrictions.