

The “Why” is as Important as the “What”

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **illus.:** someone might say, “I don’t care “why” you did it, just that you did it!”
- as a Christian we think differently, we care “why” we do things, because God cares
- **lesson:** The “Why” is as Important as the “What”

➤ Everything must be based on faith – what’s not of faith is sin

- **Rom. 1:5b; 16:26b** must be obedient to “the” faith – body of teachings in God’s word

➤ - Rom. 10:17 faith comes by hearing word of God – faith in God through His word, obey

- **2 Th. 1:8** we must obey gospel (word of God)
- **1 Cor. 1:21** God saves the people who believe (live by faith)
- **thought questions: if faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**
 - Can a person believe without knowing God’s word?
 - Can a person be saved without knowing God’s word?
 - **Hos. 4:6** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. . . .”
 - How important is Bible study and learning God’s word, compared to other things in life?

➤ - Rom. 14:23 if not of faith, it’s sin

- must obey God based on faith that comes from His word, or we live in sin
- in matters of opinion, if a person does the right thing, but thinks it’s wrong, then for him it’s a sin
 - **illus.:** if a person thinks it’s wrong to eat meat, but because of peer pressure eats meat anyway, he sins
 - **illus.:** some brethren think it’s wrong to celebrate Christmas on a personal level, but if they give in to peer pressure and do it anyway, still believing it’s wrong, they sin
- **thought questions:**
 - How important is it to stay true to our conscience?
 - How important is it to train our conscience with God’s word?

➤ - Col. 3:17 mature Christians should be able to cite the Bible authority for every action

- **thought questions:**
 - If our faith is based on God’s word, should we know where the Scripture that authorizes what we’re doing? – if not, how can it be faith?
 - If we’re to do all in the name of the Lord, shouldn’t we know the Scripture that authorizes what we’re doing? – if not, how do you know it’s in the name of the Lord?

- the “why” is as important as the “what” – if it’s not of faith, it’s sin

- faith based on God’s word
- we do the right things, for the right reasons

“why” as important as “what”: faith based on God’s word

- **Everything must be done in love** – faith working through love
 - **Gal. 5:6** faith works through love (*agape*)
 - love is the engine that drives us to be obedient to the faith (**Rom. 1:5; 10:17**)
- - **2 Cor. 5:14-15, 21** because, the love of Christ controls us (*agape*)
 - our faith works through love because. . . .
 - if we do the works of God without love, our heart will not be right – doing it for wrong reasons
- - **1 Cor. 16:14, 22** so, all things are to be done in love (*agape / phileo*)
 - doing the right thing, without love, is of no profit
- - **illus.: 1 Cor. 13:1-3** doing mighty deeds of God without love, is of no profit (*agape*)
 - vs. 1-2 miracles, principle applicable but not the miraculous acts
 - vs. 3 sacrifice for the gospel, applicable in every age
 - doing the greatest works in the kingdom are not profitable, if we do not have love
 - doing the work will not be for God and the kingdom, but from a sinful motive
- **illus.: assembling with the saints** (church), if not from love, of no profit
 - if not from love, it’s for another reason
 - possible other reasons:
 - to please other people – parents, friends, boss, etc.
 - to make business contacts
 - if not assembling with the saints from proper motives, it doesn’t profit us
 - not worshiping in spirit and truth (**Jn. 4:24**)
- the “why” is as important as the “what” – if it’s not of faith, working through love, it’s sin
 - faith based on God’s word
 - faith driven by godly love
- Are you doing the right things for the right reasons?

➤ **Result: doing all things based on faith and because of love brings glory to God**

- **1 Cor. 10:31** we do all to the glory of God

- **Rom. 1:21** we honor our heavenly Father as God, and give thanks

- **Rom. 2:23** we honor Him by keeping His law

- we do the right things for the right reasons, bringing glory to God, anything else brings dishonor

➤ - **2 Cor. 8:21** we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men

- **1 Cor. 6:19-20** we glorify God in our bodies

- **Phil. 1:20** we must exalt Christ in our bodies

- **Rom. 12:17** we do things that are honorable and respectable in the sight of all men

- **1 Cor. 9:19** make ourselves slaves to all, to win some

- **illus.: commanded to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)** – “why” (love) as important as “what”

- **right thing:** speak truth

- **right way:** love

- **application:**

- if do the right thing the wrong way, it dishonors God

- but if we do the right thing the wrong way, it glorifies God

- **illus.: commanded to be ready to make a defense, giving an account for our hope, with gentleness and reverence (1 Pet. 3:15)** – “why” (Christ sanctified in heart) as important as “what”

- **right things:** give a defense, giving an account for our hope

- **right way:** gentleness and reverence

- **application:**

- if do the right thing the wrong way, it dishonors God

- but if we do the right thing the wrong way, it glorifies God

- **the “why” is as important as the “what”** – if it’s not of faith, working through love, it doesn’t glorify God

- faith based on God’s word

- faith driven by godly love

- result: glorifying God in all things

Summary / Inv.

- **review PP**

- **inv.: Are you honoring God today?**

- doing the right things for the right reasons, in the right way, bringing honor to God

- the “why” is as important as the “what”