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

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 thorough 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 thinks 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 not 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”