

Three “P”’s to Prosperous Potential – 1 Cor. 10:23-33

Isn't it everyone's goal in life to be prosperous? Aren't we all trying to get ahead and do the best we can? Don't we work hard every day to see what we can do that is different from what we did yesterday to ensure that we are moving toward our goals? Here we see that Paul says twice that all things are lawful. However he also says twice that not all things are good for us or smart to do. Paul speaks of three things in this chapter that tell us how we should live and how we can reach our potential if we will pay attention to how we use the things we do.

1. **Prioritize God's people – vs. 23-30** Paul has a common theme throughout his writings that speak of how we should treat others. It is an expansion on the theme where Jesus tells us to “Love our neighbor as ourselves.” [Matt. 22:35-40](#) Here he is giving us specific instruction on how we ought to treat someone who is we know but who may not believe exactly as we do. God created all mankind. We are all part of God's creation, but not all part of God's family. Thus we need to look out for how we treat those who are not part of God's family but still part of God's creation. We are told here to be sensitive to the beliefs of other, but not to allow it to keep us from developing the relationships that will ultimately lead to a positive witness to that person. We are to seek that which is good and right, but be aware of the traps Satan has out there for us. [Phil. 2:3-4](#).
2. **Pursue God's Glory – vs. 31** – Here we see that the purpose and the goal for everything that we do, say, or think, should be for the Glory of God. It is an easy test, but one that we seldom apply to our everyday lives because it requires constant checking of our spiritual health. If we are really honest, we would all admit that we are just too selfish or scared to be spiritual all the time. We don't like the restrictions that we think being spiritual might put on us. Paul has already given us the freedom to do mostly whatever we want as long as it doesn't break our fellowship with God. [1 Cor. 9:19](#) So ask yourself before you do or say something; Does this or will this cause my fellowship with God to grow and get more intimate, or will it cause a break in our relationship? Does this or will this cause others to stumble and fall in their spiritual life? If we are all honest, we will find these very hard questions to ask in the heat of the moment. I can tell you from personal experience that asking this question right at the moment Satan is tempting me is the furthest thing from my mind. Yet it should be foremost in my thinking. So why isn't it on my mind? Because I had not made God foremost in my daily thinking. Paul says, “Whatever you do, do all to the Glory of God”. That doesn't leave much room for questions or anything else.

3. ***Perceive God's Purpose – vs. 32-33*** We are here on this earth to be ambassadors for God. We are to reflect the will of God and His love to all we come in contact with. We are not to seek our own well being but that of others. Why? So that they may be saved. This is the ultimate purpose for us to be left here after we are saved. To assist and encourage others in their search for salvation. It is easier to do something if we have an example from someone who has gone before us. But we have the obligation and responsibility to do the right things and not be a hindrance to anyone.

So, how do we apply these three things to our lives that will ensure that we are prosperous and can reach our potential? We need only to look at verse 31. Whatever we do we need to be sure that we do everything to the glory of God. And it isn't as easy as it sounds. Satan is going to put more road blocks in your way than you can imagine. Just look to Him and pray without ceasing.