

1 Corinthians 10:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

Analysis

Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth—This verse provides the ethical principle governing Christian freedom: others-centered love. **Let no man seek his own** (mēdeis to heautou zētetō, μηδεὶς τὸ ἔαυτοῦ ζητεῖτω) directly contradicts selfish individualism. The verb zēteō (ζητέω, "seek") implies active pursuit—don't make your primary aim personal advantage, pleasure, or rights.

Instead, **seek every man another's wealth** (to tou heterou, τὸ τοῦ ἑτέρου, literally "the thing of the other"). The word translated "wealth" could also be "benefit" or "good"—actively pursue what benefits your neighbor. This echoes Jesus's second commandment (love your neighbor as yourself) and Paul's later teaching (Philippians 2:3-4: "in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves").

Applied to the idol-food controversy: even if you have liberty to eat such food, don't exercise that freedom if it harms a weaker brother's conscience (8:9-13). Christian ethics aren't primarily about individual rights but corporate responsibility. Love constrains liberty, subordinating personal freedom to others' spiritual welfare. This is cruciform living—following Christ who didn't seek His own but laid down His life for others.

Historical Context

Greco-Roman culture was competitive and honor-driven—advancing personal status was paramount. The wealthy used patron-client relationships to enhance social standing. Temple banquets often involved networking and status displays. Paul's ethic radically inverts this: seek others' good, not your own advancement. This countercultural approach made Christianity socially strange—prioritizing the weak over the strong, service over status, communal good over individual rights.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What specific decisions in the coming week could you make with "another's wealth" rather than your own as the priority?
2. How does consumer culture's emphasis on personal choice and individual rights conflict with this verse's others-centered ethic?
3. In what relationships or contexts do you most struggle to seek others' benefit over your own?

Interlinear Text

μηδεὶς	τὸ	ἐαυτοῦ	ζητείτω	ἀλλὰ	τὸ	τοῦ	ἐτέρου
no man	G3588	his own	G1438	Let	G2212	but	G235
G3367							G3588
							another's
							G2087

ἐκαστος

every man

G1538

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:33 (Parallel theme): Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Philippians 2:21 (Parallel theme): For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

1 Corinthians 13:5 (Parallel theme): Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

2 Corinthians 12:14 (Parallel theme): Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not your's, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

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