

The Need for Carbon Copy Christians
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

I. The Role of Carbon Paper and How It Applies to Christians

A. Carbon Paper

B. Paul calls for carbon copy Christians

1. Summary statements
 - a. Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God
 - b. Do not give anyone a good reason to be offended with you
 - c. Do what you can to serve the best interests of others rather than your own self interest
2. **Summary application: Imitate my pattern of life just as follow the pattern of Christ.**

II. The Pattern of Christ and Carbon Copy Christians

A. Jesus lived and died for the Father's business

1. **Luke 2:49 (KJV) *And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?***
2. **Philippians 2:8 (ESV) *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.***

B. Jesus lived and served for the Father's business

1. Mark 10:35-45 (The Occasion of James' and John's Request for Favor)
2. The point is that Jesus, most deserving of favor, seeks not superiority but service!

C. Jesus lived and loved for the Father's business

1. Mark 12:30-34

III. The Need for Carbon Chop Christians

A. The Need Today

1. The need for Christians devoted to live and die for the Father's business
 - a. Compromise and selfishness are the great weaknesses of the church today that undermine both the quality of our devotion and the level of impact the church could and should have on the culture around us.
 - b. Jesus
 - (1) **Mark 8:34-38 (ESV) *And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy***

angels.”

(2) **Matthew 24:7-13 (ESV)** ⁷ *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.* ⁸ *All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.* ⁹ *“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.* ¹⁰ *And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.* ¹¹ *And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.* ¹² *And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.* ¹³ *But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

- (a) As the great commandments (the law) are abandoned by Christians in favor of self-indulgence and self-preservation, love for God and love for others declines
- (b) The need in our day is for men and women uncompromisingly devoted to living life for Jesus as Jesus did in the world.
- (c) **While you may have your convictions about whether the US Supreme Court needs another conservative, or a moderate, or a liberal, the world, your community, your church, your family, your soul need a commitment from you to abandon the ways of the world and live wholeheartedly, intentionally, without compromise for Christ!**

- 2. The need for Christians committed to live and serve for the Father’s business
 - a. Look around you: God has provided this context as the easiest training ground around to practice serving like Jesus did.
 - b. Why did God provide for this building and these people?
 - (1) To give you a place you could learn to serve with the heart of Christ
 - (2) This is not just a meeting place; these are not just people who happen to gather in this place on a weekly basis
 - (a) Lights out
 - (b) Technology opportunities
 - (c) Nursery/Sunday school
 - (d) Hospitality/coffee after
 - (3) **These are all ways and people among whom you can safely define and nurture your heart in the likeness of Jesus**
- 3. The need for Christians dedicated to live and love the Father’s business
 - a. The defining characteristics of genuine love is self-sacrifice on

behalf of others.

b. This is the heart of Paul's inspired teaching in 1 Corinthians 10 and the reason for his call to carbon copy Christian lives in 11:1.

(1) **1 Corinthians 10:32-33 (ESV)** *Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.*

(2) **1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)** *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

c. **Love gladly spends itself on behalf of those who are loved.**

(1) God spent His love on the world.

(2) Jesus spent His love on you.

(3) Who are you spending your love on?

B. Will you be the Christian the church and the world and the Kingdom need today?

1. When Jesus called His first disciples and said to them "Come, follow me," this is what he meant
2. He meant for us to devote our lives to living out the pattern of life, service, and love he showed us.