


MY TRIP TO THE ZOO





**We have
freedom
in Christ but the
abuse of freedom
distorts the image**





Freedom

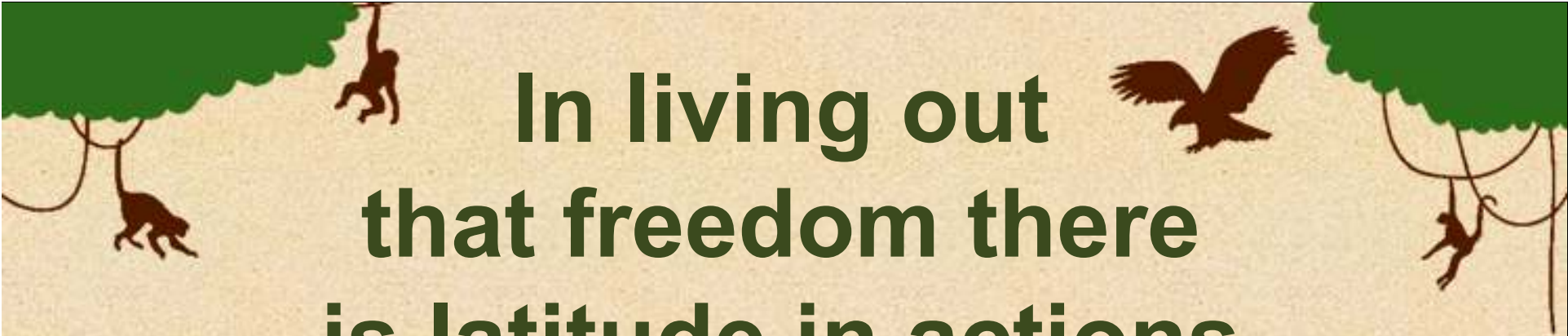
The power to act as one pleases

We are Free in Christ (Galatians 5:1)

The state of not being
imprisoned or enslaved

Free to live in a relationship
with God through Christ





**In living out
that freedom there
is latitude in actions
as we are no longer
under the "law"**

**However, we need to put our freedom in
the context of a healthy image of Christ**



Exercising Restraint

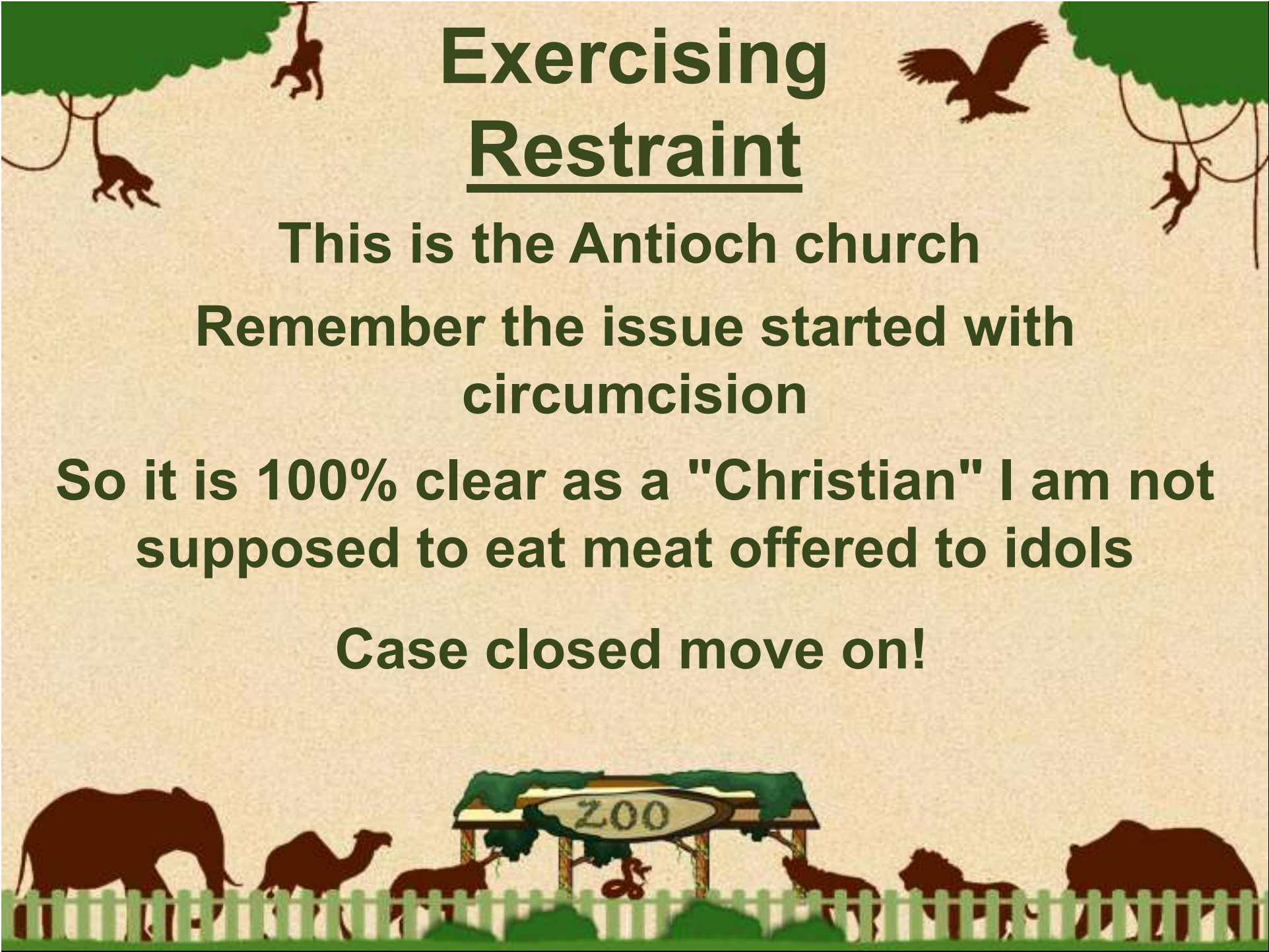


The background features a light beige textured surface. At the top, there are silhouettes of two monkeys hanging from green tree branches, an eagle in flight, and another monkey hanging from a branch. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a zoo enclosure with a white picket fence, a sign that says 'ZOO', and various animals including an elephant, a camel, a lion, and a bear.

Exercising Restraint

You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Acts 15:29



Exercising Restraint

This is the Antioch church

**Remember the issue started with
circumcision**

**So it is 100% clear as a "Christian" I am not
supposed to eat meat offered to idols**

Case closed move on!

It's Back

Now about food sacrificed to idols:
We know that “We all possess knowledge.”
But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.
Those who think they know something do
not yet know as they ought to know. But
whoever loves God is known by God.

1 Corinthians 8:1-3



The header features a light beige background with green tree silhouettes on the left and right. A monkey is hanging from a vine on the left, and another monkey is hanging from a vine on the right. A brown eagle is flying in the center, positioned above the title.

Paul's Take

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

1 Corinthians 8:4-6



Paul's Take

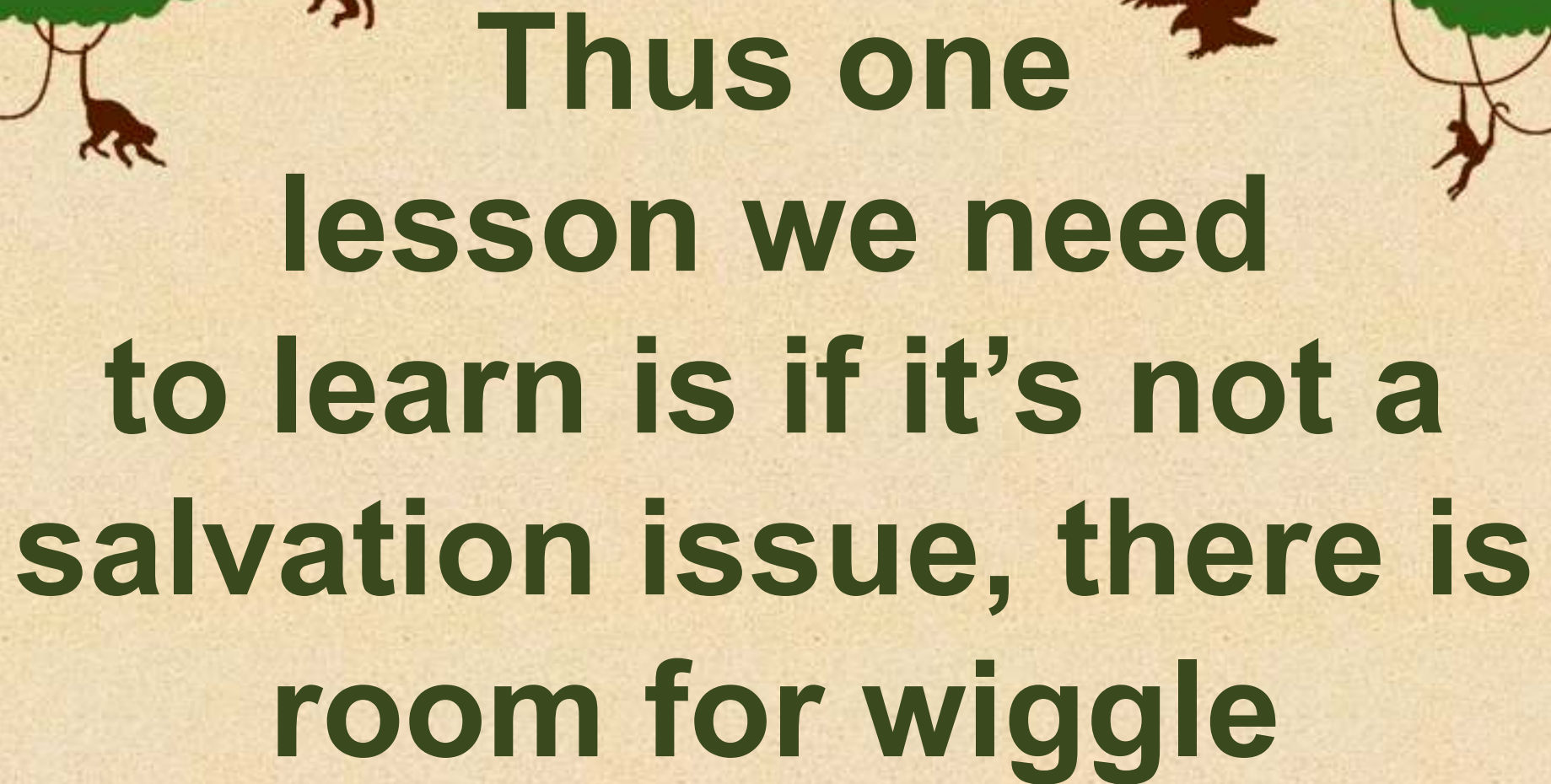
An idol is nothing because
the "god" behind it is nothing

Thus meat offered to nothing is no more
unclean than meat that was butchered to sell

Sound logic --- Note: Paul is 100% setting
aside James' instructions --- but it's OK
James never called it a sin

It's not a salvation issue





**Thus one
lesson we need
to learn is if it's not a
salvation issue, there is
room for wiggle**

A decorative top border featuring silhouettes of monkeys hanging from vines on the left and right, and an eagle in flight in the center.

Non-Issue?

But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

1 Corinthians 8:4-6



Real Issue

While we are one we did not
all get here via the same path

Your faith has much to do
with how you got her

Thus there are some that may have a
"weaker" conscience

In that we may need to abstain
for the sake of their faith





How do I know when? (1 Corinthians 8:9-12)



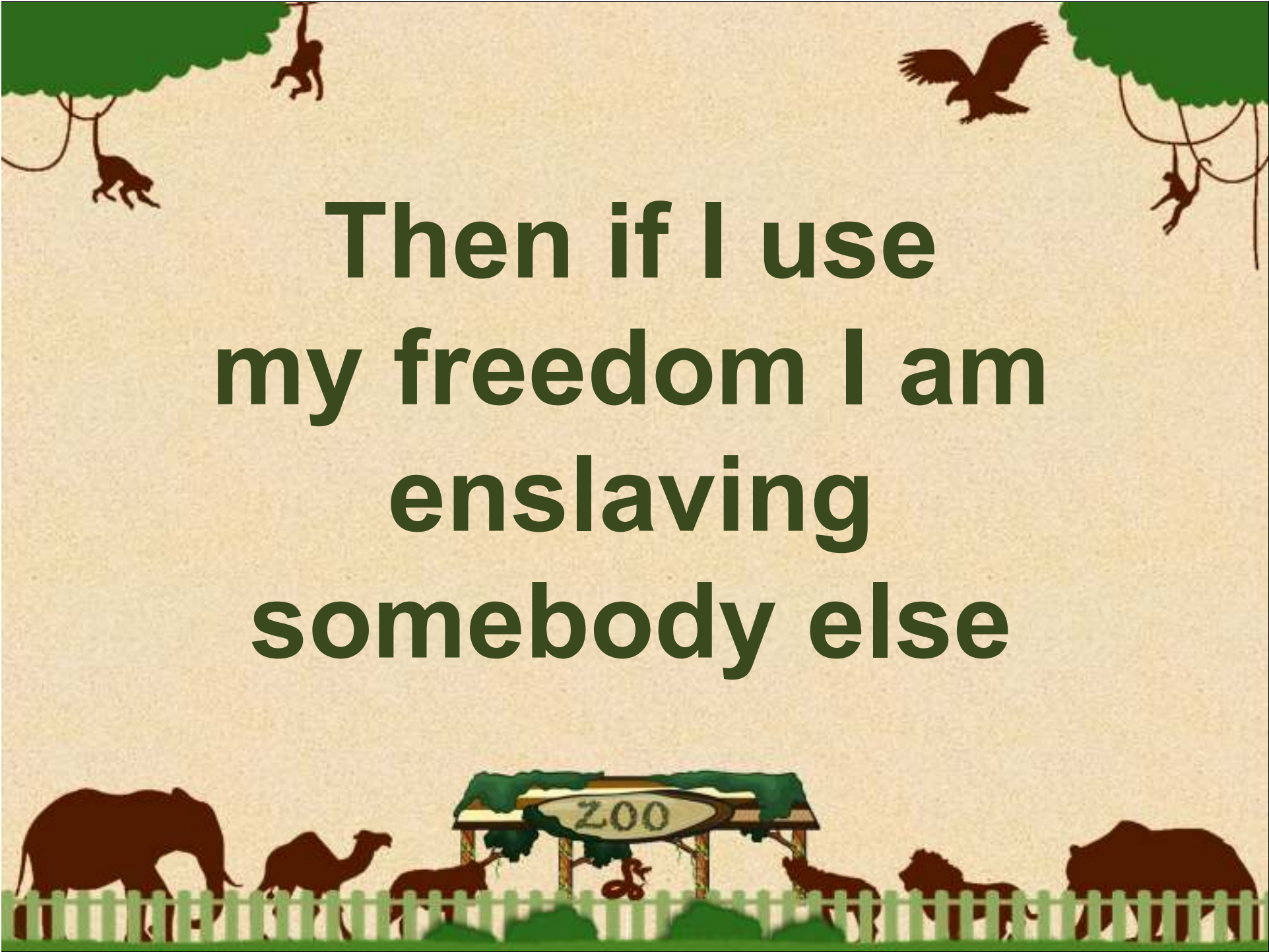
How Do I Know When?

The key is a crisis of faith

This is not the rule if it
just makes somebody unhappy

It's not the rule if we just
don't want to change

It is the rule if our actions will
actually cause somebody to participate in
what they would consider **sin**

A cartoon illustration of a zoo. In the foreground, there is a white picket fence. Behind the fence, several animals are visible: an elephant, a camel, a lion, a bear, and a monkey. In the center, there is a sign that says "ZOO" under a small structure with a green roof. The background is a light beige color with silhouettes of trees and animals. At the top, there are silhouettes of monkeys hanging from vines and an eagle flying. The text "Then if I use my freedom I am enslaving somebody else" is written in a large, bold, green font in the center of the image.

**Then if I use
my freedom I am
enslaving
somebody else**

Summary

Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall

1 Corinthians 8:12



**If we want to
soar like eagles
then we have to use
freedom wisely**

