

1 Corinthians 8

1. Because of the problem of sexual immorality, what does the Word of God teach us?

-That marriage is an answer to the problem of sexual immorality.

2. What is the truth about the man's body belonging to his wife, and the woman's body belonging to her husband?

-God wants the husband to serve his wife, and He also wants the wife to serve her husband.

3. What is wrong to think that a husband or wife can refuse sex to make them more holy?

-First, our holiness does not come from us nor from our works, but rather from God alone.

-Second, depriving your spouse of a God-given right can hurt and may give Satan an opportunity to tempt you.

4. When should a husband and a wife not have sex with one another?

-Only if they both agree in order to devote themselves to a special time of prayer.

5. Why did Paul wish that the Corinthians would be like him and not be married?

-So that they would dedicate themselves completely to God's work, and not worry about marriage.

6. What does it mean that each of us has our own gift

from God?

-If you are not married and are not going to marry, then this is a gift from God.

-If you are married, then this is also a gift from God.

7. What does the Word of God teach us about the unmarried and the widows?

-It is good for them to stay unmarried.

8. What does the Word of God teach us about a Christian man and a Christian woman who are married?

-They must not separate or divorce.

9. If a Christian man and a Christian woman separate or divorce, what should they do?

-They must remain unmarried or be reconciled.

10. What does the Word of God teach us about a Christian who is married to a non-Christian?

-The Christian should not divorce the non-Christian.

11. What does the Word of God teach us if a husband or wife who does not believe in Christ leaves?

-If the non-Christian spouse leaves, then the Christian should allow him or her to go.

12. Whether we are single or married or divorced, what is important?

-To be content.

13. If a spouse dies, who alone should a Christian marry?

-Another Christian.

-For chapters 8-10, God through Paul teaches us about the possible dangers of our freedom in Christ.

-As these lessons are beginning lessons, we will not study chapter 9 until a later time.

-In this lesson, we will study chapters 8 & 10.

-We will start with 1 Corinthians 8:

Let's read 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

1-Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.

2-Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know.

3-But whoever loves God is known by God.

-The Corinthian Christians had written and asked about food sacrificed to idols.

-In Corinth, people believed that demons attached themselves to food so that when the food was eaten, the demons could enter into the people.

-Therefore, the Corinthians took their food into the temples and sacrificed the food to their idols in order to cleanse the food.

-As a result, much of the food that was sold in the market was food that had been sacrificed to idols.

-The strong Christians in Corinth knew that even though the food was sacrificed to idols, there would be no problems for them if they ate it.

-It seems that these strong Corinthian Christians were proud that they knew that food sacrificed to idols was nothing.

-But God through Paul teaches us that love is more important than knowledge.

-Why is love more important than knowledge?

-Because knowledge can bring pride, but love helps us to learn from God and others.

-What is the best type of knowledge?

-Knowing God.

-If we love God and others, what is this a sign of?

-That we are known by God.

-Since God knows everything, what does the Word of God mean when it says to be known by God?

-It means that we belong to God, and He belongs to us.

-It means that we are God's and He is ours.

-What is more important than anything else in all of eternity?

-Loving God and allowing God to love us.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 8:4-7

4-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."

5-For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"),

6-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.

7-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.

-Does an idol have any power?

-No.

-Why does an idol not have any power?

-Because an idol is nothing but stone or wood or metal.

-If a demon would attach itself to an idol, would the idol have any power?

-No, for demons are spirits, can go anywhere, and are not attached to anything.

-Does any demon have any power over any Christian?

-No.

-Why are there no demons nor Satan who have any power over Christians?

-Because Christ in us is greater than Satan and all of the demons.

-Why would there be no problem in our lives if we Christians would eat food sacrificed to an idol?

-Because sacrificing food to an idol does nothing to the food.

-Why does sacrificing food to an idol do nothing to the food?

-Because an idol is nothing but stone or wood or metal.

-The weak Christians in Corinth, however, were afraid of eating food that had been sacrificed to idols.

-The weak Christians were afraid that if they would eat food that was sacrificed to idols, then they would be guilty of worshipping idols.

-While eating any food is not a sin, if the weak Christians

would go against their conscience and eat food sacrificed to idols, then they believed it would be a sin.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 8:8

8-But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

-Many people in many religions use food in order to try to bring themselves closer to God.

-These people will tell us that eating or not eating food will bring us closer to God.

-The Word of God, however, teaches us that food does not bring us nearer to God nor can it take us away from God.

-Only God the Son who is Christ can bring us to God the Father.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 8:9-12

9-Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

10-For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols?

11-So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.

12-When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

-To whom are God and Paul speaking in these verses?
-Christians who have a strong faith in God.

-What does it mean that strong Christians can become a stumbling block to the weak?

-It means that strong Christians can hurt the faith of weak Christians.

-How can strong Christians hurt the faith of weak Christians?

-When they do something that leads weak Christians to do that which they do not want to do.

-When they do something that leads weak Christians to go back to their previous sins.

-When this happens, strong Christians are causing weak Christians to do something against their conscience.

-And for strong Christians to force weak Christians to do something against their conscience is a sin.

-Also, it seems that when the strong Christians would eat the food sacrificed to idols, this would offend the weak Christians.

-If we are strong Christians, yet sin against a weaker brother or sister, against whom else do we sin?

-We sin against Christ.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 8:13

13-Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

-What should a strong Christian do when we are with weaker Christians?

-We should do nothing that will cause our brother or sister to fall or to sin.

-Even though that which a strong Christian does for himself is not a sin, it becomes a sin when it causes others to sin.

-Let's continue to the teaching in chapter 10:

-Using Israel as an example, God through Paul teaches us that we must not abuse our faith in Christ.

-Even though we believe in God, there are many temptations in the world that can hurt our faith.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

1-For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.

2-They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

3-They all ate the same spiritual food,

4-and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

5-Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

-Even though God brought all of Israel out of Egypt.

-Even though God led all of Israel through the desert.

-Even though God walked with all of Israel.

-Almost all of the Israelites died on their journey, and did not enter the promised land.

-What is the lesson here?

-That even though God has saved us from sin and walks with us through life, we should not abuse the faith that God has given us.

-Instead of abusing the faith that God has given us, we should protect our faith in Christ.

-Now, God and Paul give us examples of how Israel abused their faith instead of protecting their faith.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:6-12

6-Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

7-Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry."

8-We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.

9-We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes.

10-And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

11-These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

12-So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

-Even though the Israelites were united under Moses as Christians are united in Christ, what happened to Israel?

-God punished them because they abused their faith instead of protecting their faith.

-How did God punish the Israelites?

-Those who turned against God to worship the golden calf were killed (Exodus 32).

-Those who committed sexual immorality with the neighboring pagan tribes were killed (Numbers 25).

-Those who tested God by doubting His goodness were killed by poisonous snakes (Num 21).

-Those who complained against Moses and Aaron died (Numbers 16).

-Those who refused to believe in God and His promise to give them the land of Canaan died (Numbers 14).

-All of this that happened to Israel is an example and a warning to us all.

-We should never abuse our faith in Christ, but always ask God to help us to protect it.

-If we think that we are standing strong like the Israelites, what should we be careful about?

-We should be careful that we don't fall.

-As Christians, we need to be careful as we are all tempted to sin.

-When we are tempted to sin, however, we should know that we can call on God to help us.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:13

13-No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

-Is temptation a part of all of our lives?

-Yes.

-As the verse above teaches us, temptation is common to all people.

-While different Christians may have different temptations, they are still very much a part of our lives.

-Was Jesus tempted?

-Yes.

-Why does God allow temptations in our lives?

-To test us.

-In the Bible, temptation is simply a test.

-Is temptation evil?

-No.

-A temptation or test is not evil.

-It is our response to the temptation, however, that can lead to evil.

-By whom was Jesus tempted?

-By Satan.

-While Jesus was tempted by Satan, the temptation did not lead to evil nor did Jesus sin.

-As we learn from Satan tempting Jesus, temptation does not have to lead to evil.

-As we learn from Satan tempting Jesus, temptation does not have to end with sin.

-How did Jesus overcome the temptations of Satan?

-With the Word of God.

-How do Christians overcome temptations?

-With the Word of God.

-Why did God the Father allow Jesus to be tempted?

-To teach us that the Word of God is more powerful than evil.

-Why does God allow us Christians to be tempted?

-To teach us to depend on God and His Word.

-With every temptation, God provides a way to resist.

-Satan, and demons, and all temptations cannot resist the Word of God.

-This is because the Word of God is more powerful than Satan, demons, and any temptation.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:14-18

14-Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

15-I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.

16-Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

17-Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

18-Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?

-What is idolatry?

-Idolatry is worshiping something or someone rather than God.

-Idolatry is worshiping money or cars or houses rather than God.

-Idolatry is worshiping other people rather than God.

-Idolatry is also worshiping ourselves rather than God.

-The first two commandments which God gave us tell us to worship only God, and not to worship idols.

-Of all the sins, idolatry is the worst.

-In the verses above, what must we do concerning idolatry?

-We must flee from idolatry.

-Why must we flee from idolatry?

-When we are worshiping something or someone rather than God, we are rejecting God.

-What does drinking the cup of thanksgiving and sharing in the bread of Christ have to do with idolatry?

-Just as Christians share in Christ's death on the cross with the cup and the bread, so do those who sacrifice to idols share the evil which may be with the idols.

-This is why Christians should never participate in sacrificing to idols.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:19-22

19-Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?

20-No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

21-You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

22-Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

-As we have already learned, idols have no power.

-Yet those who sacrifice to idols actually sacrifice to demons.

-For when someone is sacrificing to an idol, Satan will send a demon who has some power to continue to deceive the one who is sacrificing.

-The person who sacrifices to an idol thinks that he is sacrificing to a higher power who will help him and protect him.

-But in reality, the sacrifice to an idol is nothing except to deceive the one who is sacrificing.

-Satan and his demons will do anything to deceive people.

-This is because Satan does not want anyone to worship God.

-Satan would rather have people sacrifice to idols so that the demons and Satan himself would be worshiped.

-Our God, however, is a jealous God who wants us to worship only Him.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

23-"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive.

24-No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

-While Christians have total freedom in Christ, we must understand that some things may not be good.

-To use our freedom in Christ properly, if we look for the good of others, and not look for our own good, then this truth will protect us.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:25-27

25-Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience,

26-for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

27-If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience.

-What is the Word of God teaching us here?

-That we Christians are totally free in Christ, because the world belongs to our God.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:28-30

28-But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience.

29-I am referring to the other person's conscience,

not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another's conscience?

30-If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

-While we Christians are totally free in Christ, we should use our freedom to refrain from eating food that has been sacrificed to idols in order not to hurt a fellow Christian who has a weak faith.

-We use our freedom to refrain from doing things that will hurt the conscience of a fellow Christian who has a weak faith.

-Let us read the conclusion to this teaching:

Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

31-So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

32-Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—

33-even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

-From the above, what is the first conclusion?

-Whatever we do, we should do it all for the glory of God.

-God has created us to glorify God.

-Our purpose in life is to glorify God.

-We glorify God when we confess our sin to Him.

-We glorify God when we believe in Him.

-We glorify God when we thank Him for all that He has done for us.

-We glorify God when we talk with Him.

-We glorify God when we are content in Him.

-We glorify God when we suffer for Him.

-We glorify God when we teach others about Him.

-We glorify God when we obey Him.

-We glorify God when we allow God to be completely God in our lives.

-All what we do and say and are should be to bring glory to God.

-What is a second conclusion from the above?

-Do not cause anyone to stumble.

-What is a third conclusion from the above?

-Seek not our own good, but the good of many.

-Why should we seek the good of others?

-That they may be saved.