

•Pray together - confess these actions to God and ask him to forgive you and shape your future actions with these motivations that Paul encouraged.

Talk Notes

Food Sacrificed to Idols and Acting for the Good of Others

1 Corinthians 8; 10:23-33

The Story so far...

As we have learned, the Christians in Corinth were living too much like the culture around them, and forgetting their identity as God's holy people. In response, Paul has been reminding them of their identity and showing them the right way to live which reflects being children of God. In this part of the letter, Paul will talk about eating food sacrificed to idols and the use of our Christian freedom.

Icebreaker

Which of the following would you be willing and not be willing to sacrifice ?

Your money, your time, your organs, your life , your rights, your children

Pray

Ask God to help us understand, accept and obey His word even when it is challenging or hard.

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Are there any difficult words?

What is the difference between knowledge and love (v.1-3)?

What do you think being known by God means (v.3)? (Also see Galatians 4:8-9)

Galatians 4:8-9

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

- How does being known by God make you feel? What are some ways that can help you continue to love God for the rest of your life?

How does Paul view idols? Are there many gods? (v.4-5)

What is Paul's reason to believe that there is only one God? Why does Paul also mention Jesus (v.6)?

What do some Christians in Corinth think about idols and the food sacrificed to them? (v.7)

Do certain food bring us near to God (v.8)? If not, what brings us near to God (Ephesians 2:12-13)?

Ephesians 2:12-13

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

What do Christians need to be careful not to do (v.9)?

Why shouldn't Christian use their freedom in every situation (v.10-13)?

Puffs up: to become proud or arrogant.

Idol: an image or representation of a god used as an object of worship.

Conscience: a person's moral sense of right and wrong; seen as a guide to behaviour.

Defiled: damage or make unclean the purity or appearance of something.

Stumbling block: to cause difficulty (in this context: to cause to sin).

Emboldened: to become bold, courageous, or confident to do something.

Even though Christians have freedom, what should always be our motivation when we act (Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-33)?

In pairs, think of another example of how a Christian can use their freedom in a way that causes others to stumble?

- Choose one of those examples and discuss how would your actions change if you are motivated by seeking the good of others and glorifying God?

Consider your actions in the past week or month, how have you use your Christian freedom in a way that caused others to stumble? (share if you are comfortable)