

1 Corinthians 8 & 10

Two immediate things stand out about this chapter. It, along with chapter 5, are the shortest chapters in this letter. It begins with a second question from the Corinthians, "Now concerning".

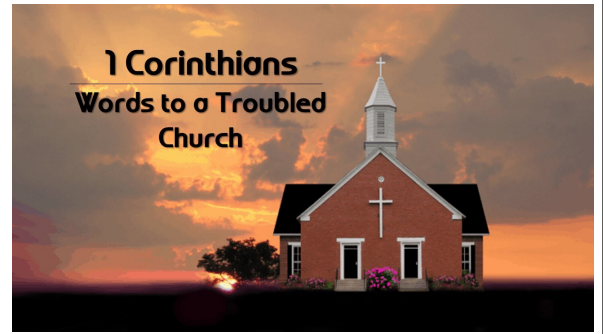
Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge.

Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. ² If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; ³ but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

⁴ Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol 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 are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him.

⁷ However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat *food* as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. ⁸ But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. ⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. ¹² And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.

Who is it that sinned in (12)?



Leaving idols and the practices connected to them was a huge step in the first century world. The Jews understood. The Gentiles struggled.

- The Thessalonians were praised for leaving idols (1 Thes 1:9)

The Subject of meats offered to idols

- Addressed in Jerusalem meeting (Acts 15:29)
- Discussed in Romans 14-15
- The thought continues from here to ch 10
 - in Ch 9 Paul uses himself as an example of having a right but not exercising it
- More important than the answer to the question is how we treat one another

1. Knowledge tells us that there is no such thing as an idol (4)
 - Knowledge without love leads to _____

Knowledge concludes that there is nothing wrong with eating idol meat

Love concludes that eating idol meat is wrong if it hurts another Christian

(a) Love edifies (1) (10:23; 13:4-8)

2. Not everyone has this understanding or knowledge (7)
 - this would be the same as the "weak" (Rom 14:1)
 - Those lacking this understanding, eat idol meat and their conscience is defiled (7)

Conscience _____ (7)

Conscience _____ (12)

Conscience _____ (11)

Rom 14:23 that becomes sin

3. Eating or not eating does not affect us with God (8)
4. Those who can eat must be mindful of others who cannot eat (9-12)

Two Lessons for us:

1. Something right can become _____ if it hurts another's faith
2. The faith of others _____ my rights and liberties (13)

1 Corinthians 10:14-33

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say. ¹⁶ Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸ Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar? ¹⁹ What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²² Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we?

²³ All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own *good*, but that of his neighbor. ²⁵ Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions for conscience' sake; ²⁶ FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS. ²⁷ If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions for conscience' sake. ²⁸ But if anyone says to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat *it*, for the sake of the one who informed *you*, and for conscience' sake; ²⁹ I mean not your own conscience, but the other *man's*; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience? ³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks? ³¹ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; ³³ just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the *profit* of the many, so that they may be saved.

In a divided church, this lesson illustrates one more area that needed to be worked upon for them to be united.

This chapter begins with a strong warning from Biblical history (10:1, 11-13)

- these thoughts must be viewed in context of the discussion about idol meat

1. Stay away from idolatry (14)

- I do not want you to become shares in demons (20)
- great temptation to engage in idolatry (8:10; 10:12)
- idolatry is not helpful to you (23)

2. Do not seek your own good (24)

- Phil 2:4; Rom 12:10

3. Common instructions

- don't ask questions (25, 27)
- if told, do not eat (28)
- do not offend (32)

- Do all to the glory of God (31)
- Please all men (33)
- Imitate Paul (11:1)

These thoughts show the power of influence

1. Is there anything in our times that would be similar to eating idol meats?
2. How would one know that the conscience of another has been hurt?
3. What should one do if that has taken place?
4. The craving of evil things (10:6) likely has reference to what?
5. Contextually, the warning of (10:12) was directed to who?