

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **It's Not About You (1 Corinthians 10:23-33)**

Date: **December 11, 2016**

In last week's text, Paul warned the Corinthians to flee from idolatry because Christ cannot be mixed with false religion. Idolatry is dangerous, deadly, and Satanic. In 1 Corinthians 10:23-33, Paul continues to unpack some of the implications of this. We as Christians have been given the liberty to eat anything we want. We are no longer bound by the prohibitions on food that were given in the Old Testament law. Thus, we have the liberty to enjoy food to the glory of God. However, Paul warns the Corinthians to avoid eating food that has been sacrificed to idols. We have been called to love our neighbours and so we must not use our Christian liberty to cause others to stumble or to inadvertently condone their sin. By partaking in the eating of food offered to idols, the Corinthians were condoning idolatry. Paul teaches us that our Christian liberty must be governed by love for our neighbours. Paul writes, "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour," (1 Corinthians 10:24). Instead of causing someone to stumble, we must use our freedom to inform the consciences of others for the good of their souls and for the glory of God.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 10:23-33 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. What is the context found in verses 23-24?
 - b. In verse 25, Paul encourages the Corinthians to eat whatever they want. Why is it a good thing to enjoy food? How can you bring glory to God by enjoying food? How can a Christian more fully enjoy food than an unbeliever?
 - c. What is Paul's purpose in quoting Psalm 24:1 in verse 26? Why is this significant?
 - d. Read 1 Timothy 4:4. Why is it important to give thanks to God for food?
 - e. In verse 27, Paul commands the Corinthians to eat whatever is set before them if they are invited to eat at an unbeliever's house. Why would this have been a revolutionary command for the Jews in Corinth?
 - f. What are the reasons why Pastor Jacob thinks the 'someone' in verse 28 is an unbeliever?

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- g. Paul forbids a Corinthian to eat food if the person serving it to you says, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” (v. 28). Why would it have been wrong for a Corinthian to have eaten such food?
- h. Paul refers to the consciences of unbelievers in verse 28. What is a conscience? What role do Christians play in forming people’s consciences?
- i. What do the two rhetorical questions mean at the end of verse 29 and verse 30?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. By eating food sacrificed to idols, the Corinthians validated idolatry with their actions. What are some examples of things we might do or partake in that could unintentionally condone the sin of others?
3. Read Galatians 5:13. What can we do to avoid using our freedom as an opportunity for the flesh? What are some practical ways in which we can use our freedom to serve one another?
4. Our enjoyment of God’s creation must be governed by our love for neighbour. How does that truth inform whether or not you attend or participate in certain events? How might attending an event like a gay wedding, yoga class, etc. wrongly inform someone else’s conscience?
5. Christians must biblically inform the consciences of unbelievers around us.
 - a. What are some ways in which we can practically do this as individuals and as a church?
 - b. How does this truth determine whether or not you are silent on an issue?
 - c. How does this inform how we understand tolerance and inclusivity? For example, how would this inform whether or not you use a transgender person’s preferred gender pronoun?