

LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Summer 2022

Week of June 12

1 Cor 10:23–11:1

DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): 1 Corinthians 10:23–11:1

Supporting Texts: Romans 14:13–23

MAIN IDEA: Although we have freedom in Christ, we should not abuse that freedom, causing others to stumble. Instead, we should forgo certain freedoms for the sake of the gospel.

OBSERVE

What does Paul mean in vs. 23–24 regarding the limits on what is permissible? *“everything is permissible” is most likely Paul quoting the Corinthians and he is putting limits on the freedom we enjoy in Christ for the sake of others. While most things will not harm us, it could harm those around us and that makes it not worth it.*

What does Paul say someone should do if they know there is food that has been sacrificed to an idol (vs. 25–28)? *Do not eat it for the sake of the other’s conscience. In other words, don’t cause them to stumble because it may appear as if you are approving of the worship of those idols through eating the food.*

How do vs. 31–33 spell out specific ways to imitate Paul as he imitates Christ (11:1)? *Do everything to the glory of God (v. 31). Don’t cause Jews, Gentiles, or the Church to stumble because of your actions (v. 32). Sacrifice yourself for the sake of the salvation of others (v. 33).*

INTERPRET

How do vs. 25–30 illustrate what Paul says in vs. 23–24? *Although there are many things, such as food and drink, that can be considered permissible, they are not always a good idea for you or others. Paul uses vv. 25–30 to demonstrate that a Christian should not be prudish in asking questions about where meat came from (from an idol’s temple or not) while buying meat in the marketplace or eating in someone’s home. At the same time, however, if you know that the meat has been sacrificed to an idol, do not eat it...not because the meat is bad in itself...but because idols are demonic (see vv. 14–22) and eating the food that you know has been used in worship of those idols may cause the other person to fall into idol worship.*

1 Cor 10:31–11:1 brings the entire discussion of food sacrificed to idols (1 Corinthians 8–10) to a close. What is his conclusion? *“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Col 3:17; cf. 1 Cor 10:31). Although the Corinthians have great freedom in Christ, everything they do*

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should take the Great Commandment into consideration: Love God...love others (Matt 22:37–40). Even if they are free to eat or drink, they cannot use that freedom to scandalize the Jews, Gentiles, or other believers (v. 32). The salvation of others must always be in view (v. 33). Paul sets the example for the Corinthians just as Jesus set the example for Paul (11:1).

APPLY

Read Romans 14:13–23. How do these verses help with application of what we have just been discussing? *You should not criticize other believers for their consciences regarding gray areas. You should avoid causing those around you (believers or unbelievers) to stumble because of how you address the gray areas.*

What are some modern examples of things in our culture that may not be bad in and of themselves but which should be avoided for the sake of others, despite our freedom in Christ?