

Please open your Bibles up to I Corinthians 8-10. We'll be looking at three chapters today.

Take 15 minutes....

1. Share a story of how someone inconvenienced their life for another person. For example, I know a family where the parents got COVID. The sister of the mom took the 4 year old little girl into her home for the 10 day quarantine at considerable inconvenience.
2. Share a story of an authority figure, like a parent, employer, teacher, that you saw disrespected. You could share something when you were in school or as an adult. Please avoid politics.

As we walk through our study of I Corinthians you'll be noticing specific topics being addressing. In this lesson, we'll be exploring idol worship and apostolic authority. Both were issues in Corinth.

1. Paul's primary concern is for _____. American culture elevates the _____.
2. The emphasis then is that followers of Jesus will _____ for the sake of others.
3. Notice what Rodney Stark's research found from his book, The Rise of Christianity. This was a profound example of sacrifice that grew this new movement. The book is worth reading. If you like math and statistics, read chapter 1. He gives a mathematical formula on the growth of the early church.
4. As Paul addresses sacrifices to idols, he addresses two kinds: _____ and _____.

Chapter 8

5. What is Paul's foundational statement for these new followers? For followers worship starts and ends here.

6. Looking at Private Celebration and meat offer to idols. Why should people sustain from eating meat offered to idols? He is clear that the meat is really nothing because the idol is nothing. Why not eat?
7. Paul is clear that the _____ are to look out for the _____.

Pause the video and talk through the discussion questions below

For discussion: (take 15 minutes)

- In Western culture we don't have physical idols. We do have idols. Remember an idol is anything we hold dear over Christ Jesus. In your observations, what are some of those idols? How do people worship them?
- Pastor Dan shared the story of a colleague who stopped drinking beer because his high school students were drinking and he didn't want to affirm their behavior. He gave up beer (which he liked). This sounds commendable but what is the difficulty for any of us in making this type of decision? What would be an example we would use today in our congregation?
- Why are verses 9-13 so difficult for us who are followers of Jesus? Who actually are the weak? The strong?

Chapter 10

8. You'll see that Paul once again restates the foundational statement in vs. 1-4. What is it?
 "...and that rock was _____."
9. (vs. 13) God does not create _____ and this verse is aimed at believers. Be careful of extending this to non-believers. You will often hear people ask "why has God done this to me?" First, God did not do anything "bad" to someone. He doesn't do "bad" so we don't "blame" God. Second, This means God doesn't tempt but for followers He does intervene to rescue them from being overwhelmed.
10. (vs.20) Paul addresses _____. If meat offered to idols is sold in the marketplace and you don't know it, enjoy the meat.
11. (vs. 27-30) Paul speaks of Private Celebration. What do you do if you're invited to a home for a pagan festival and dinner? What does Paul teach?

Pause for discussion: (10 minutes)

- What should Christians NOT do today that would confuse unbelievers and new Christians? Are we willing to sacrifice those things for the sake of others?
- Again, what is the foundation of why you would sacrifice for another (or the community over the individual)?

Chapter 9

The focus of this chapter is how to treat an apostle and other workers among them. Again, Paul

(vs. 2) affirms his authority by writing **“For you are the _____ of my apostleship in the Lord.”** His influence had a profound impact on the Corinthian congregation. He does have authority to speak into the community.

He addresses that a worker should be given a _____ wage. Paul is clear that

this is not out of manipulation or personal gain but to _____ the growth of the Kingdom of God.

Paul ends chapter 9 but going back to the foundation. In vs. 25 he writes, “...they do it to get

A crown that will not last; but we do it to get a _____ that will last _____.”

I'd like you to end this lesson by stopping the video and have the group read out loud I Corinthians 9:24-27.

Spend a moment talking about the reading. Paul paints a great picture.

Close with a prayer.

Next Meeting:

Please read **I Corinthians 11-12** for the next session.