



Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

 Admittedly, this is a short lesson. That said, please saturate the daily lessons in prayer and devote time to the Biblical text and the associated questions. There are some ‘meaty’ questions that get at the heart of faith, of belief.

*Food Sacrificed to Idols*

<sup>1</sup>Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

Q1. The phrase “food sacrificed to idols” is hard for us to understand, today. What events were occurring in Corinth to warrant Paul's concern?

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Q2. Why does Paul write "knowledge puffs up"? (Is it related to pride?)

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Q3. How does "love build... up"?

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**Mark 12:29-31**

<sup>29</sup> "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."


**1 Corinthians 3:19**

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight...

Q4. We reviewed 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:19 (above) when we studied chapter 3. Since God gave us humans a brain capable of figuring things out, making choices, feeling emotion, and remembering, why does Paul through the Holy Spirit write that “the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight”?

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Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>2</sup>The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.

Q5. How would you compare humankind’s knowledge, wisdom, and judgment to God’s?

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Q6. What should the thinking, knowledgeable person really “ought to know”?

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<sup>3</sup>But the man who loves God is known by God.

Q7. Is each Believer in Christ Jesus known by God?

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**John 10:11, 14-15** [Jesus taught]

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep [Believers] . . .

<sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me -- <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father -- and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**Psalms 139:16**

Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

 How do you know that God knows you? How do you know God? How do you know Jesus?

**Romans 10:17**

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

**Romans 10:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> But what does it [righteousness by faith] say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

**Ephesians 1:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession -- to the praise of his glory.

**Revelation 13:8**

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast — all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

**Revelation 20:15**

If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**Exodus 33:17, 19-23, 29-30**

<sup>17</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." ... <sup>19</sup> And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. <sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

<sup>21</sup> Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. <sup>22</sup> When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup> Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." ...

<sup>29</sup> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and *they were afraid* to come near him.


Q8. How do you know that God knows you?

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Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>4</sup>So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one.

Q9. What is an idol?

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Q10. Why would eating food sacrificed to an idol be a bad thing?

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 The Bible says a lot about idols... here is one teaching from Psalm 115.

**Psalm 115:4-8**

<sup>4</sup> But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. <sup>5</sup> They have mouths, but cannot speak; eyes, but they cannot see; <sup>6</sup> they have ears, but cannot hear; noses, but they cannot smell; <sup>7</sup> they have hands, but cannot feel; feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats.

<sup>8</sup> Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

<sup>5</sup>For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), <sup>6</sup>yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

Q11. Verse-6 states that “we live” for God the Father? Do you as a Believer live for God?

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Q12. Verse-6 states that “we live” through Jesus Christ. How is that possible?

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**Genesis 1:26a**

Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...’

**John 1:1-4, 14, &17** [Christ Jesus is The Word]

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. . . .


<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . .

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Q13. How would you explain verse-3 in the passage John 1:1-4, 14, &17 (above)?

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**Day 4**

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<sup>7</sup>But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.

Q14. Is Paul concerned about the unintended example that a Christian gave tacit approval of food sacrificed to an idol?

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Q15. How could a person’s conscience be defiled?

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<sup>8</sup>But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

Q16. What is the message of verse 8?

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*Day 5*

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>9</sup>Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols?

Q17. What "freedom" is Paul talking about?

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Q18. What defines a "weak" person?

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Q19. How could a Believer's "freedom" become another's "stumbling block"?

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Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>11</sup> So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup> When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

Q20. How does Paul want us to act around new Believers?

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Q21. What would be some adjectives to describe what our Christ-like example should be? (e.g., sensitive?)

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