

Day 1

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

The Believer’s Freedom

 “The Apostle now proceeds to conclude, with some practical direction and advice, the question of the eating of meat offered to idols, from which immediate subject the strong expression of personal feeling in 1st Corinthians 8:13 had led him to branch off into the various aspects of collateral matters which have occupied him since, and to which the subject treated of in 1st Corinthians 10:14-22 of this chapter naturally lead back the thoughts of the writer. He repeats here the great principle of Christian liberty, ‘All things are lawful for me’ (see 1st Corinthians 6:12), but insists, as before, that its application must be limited by a regard (1) to the effect which each action has upon ourselves, and (2) its influence on the Church at large. ‘Does this act tend to my own spiritual profit? Does it tend to build up others?’ should be the practical rules of Christian life.”
[©Ellicott’s Commentary for English Readers by Charles J. Ellicott (1819-1905), https://biblehub.com/commentaries/1_corinthians/10-23.htm]

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 [The Message (MSG)]

Looking at it one way, you could say, “Anything goes. Because of God’s immense generosity and grace, we don’t have to dissect and scrutinize every action to see if it will pass muster.” But the point is not to just get by. We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help others live well.

²³ "Everything is permissible" — but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible" — but not everything is constructive.

Q1. What is meant by the statement “Everything is permissible but not . . . beneficial”?

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Q2. If it is permissible, why wouldn’t it be constructive?

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²⁴ Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

Q3. Does our culture, our society teach this principle?

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Mark 12:29-31

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

Q4. Who is our "neighbor"?

Q5. I have to be healthy to do good deeds. Therefore, doesn't it make sense that I need to take care of myself before others?

Q6. Did Paul work for a living?

Acts 18:1-4 [The Message (MSG)]

After Athens, Paul went to Corinth. That is where he discovered Aquila, a Jew born in Pontus, and his wife, Priscilla. They had just arrived from Italy, part of the general expulsion of Jews from Rome ordered by Claudius. Paul moved in with them, and they worked together at their common trade of tentmaking. But every Sabbath he was at the meeting place, doing his best to convince both Jews and Greeks about Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 2:9 [Paul did not want new Believers to accuse him of profiteering, so he reminded the Thessalonians of his daily labor:]

Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

Day 2

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Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Q7. What was Jesus teaching in Matthew 6:25-34?

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²⁵ Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶ for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

Q8. Should we be concerned today about the food we purchase in a meat market or supermarket?

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Q9. Why would people in the first century be concerned about “conscience” and what meat they purchased?

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²⁷ If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸ But if anyone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake — ²⁹ the other man's conscience, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience?

Q10. Was idol worship and sacrifice to those idols prevalent in Corinth at the time Paul wrote his "Corinthian" letters?

Q11. Why would Paul teach that it was okay to eat food sacrificed to idols, unless specifically told it was part of a sacrifice to an idol?

Q12. Are Believers really free to eat any kind of food? Why?

³⁰ If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

Q13. Why do we thank God for a meal?

Q14. Do you thank God for a meal in all circumstances?

Day 3

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³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Q15. How can what I eat or drink be for the “glory of God”?

³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks, or the church of God — ³³ even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

Q16. How can my actions cause another to stumble?

Q17. Are we, too, asked to “please everybody in every way”?

Q18. Do you personally seek your own good? Or the good of many?

Q19. What should be our ultimate goal?

Day 4

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1 Corinthians 11:1-16

¹Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Q20. This is curious. Why would Paul ask the Corinthians to follow his example, instead of directly following the example of Jesus? (At the time Paul wrote this letter, was the New Testament written?)

Q21. Since Paul was not one of Jesus disciples, how did Paul get the insight to know Jesus and His holy example?

Galatians 1:11-18

¹¹ I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days.

1 Corinthians 9:1

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord?

Day 5

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Propriety in Worship

 This Biblical passage is the opposite of that which is taught by current society. This passage will cause you the student to choose between current societal/cultural teachings and The Bible: is the Bible truly the inerrant Word of God, the Truth? One choice or the other. It is not possible to straddle the fence on this. Please pray for God’s wisdom and insight before proceeding; ask God to clearly define His Truth to you and reveal the lies of Satan. May God fill your heart with peace. No Jesus, no peace; know Jesus, know peace!

²I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, just as I passed them on to you.

Q22. What “teachings” did Paul pass on to the Corinthians?

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³Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Q23. Why would God have Paul write this (God → Christ → man → woman) for His holy Book? After all, it seems that we are all (men and women) one in the Lord Jesus.

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Q24. If your spouse is a non-believer in Christ Jesus, do these verses apply?

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Q25. If your believing spouse is non-compliant, is it your Christian duty to force/argue/cajole compliance?

Does the Holy Spirit have a role to play in compliance?

Duty?	Yes	Why?
	No	

Holy Spirit’s role?

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 See the [StudySheet for Ephesians 5:22-33](#) for related teachings on the Christian marriage relationship. While Paul had much guidance to share with new Believers, frequently the world/society will take a verse or two out-of-context and use it denigrate our faith and God’s Word. If the Believer reads the entire passage 1st Corinthians 11:1-16, the Believer will see the beauty in a Christian marriage relationship, will understand the arrangement that God has instituted, and will appreciate the on-going loving partnership and, yes, struggles in the God-ordained marriage relationship. God has a multitude of amazing attributes, and one of those is order; our God is order . . . not chaos. (See 1st Corinthians 14:33 that follows.)

1 Corinthians 14:33

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.

Q26. Does Scripture say that Jesus is God?

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John 14:9

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

Q27. If Jesus is God, why does He defer to God the Father?

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John 14:31

but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Q28. Does Jesus want His followers – Believers – to serve? And, if yes, who are Believers to serve?

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Q29. Do we humans want to serve others like Jesus did? Or is it part of our nature to want to be served?

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Q30. What are some examples of “serving” that Believers can do on a daily basis? At home? At work? While driving?

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⁴Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head — it is just as though her head were shaved. ⁶If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head.

Q31. What is Paul (through the Holy Spirit) saying through these verses?

 This citation may help: “In this section Paul’s main concern is irreverence in worship. We need to read it in the context of the situation in Corinth. The matter of wearing hats or head coverings, although seemingly insignificant, had become a big problem because two cultural backgrounds were colliding. Jewish women always covered their heads in worship. For a woman to uncover her head in public was a sign of loose morals. On the other hand, Greek women may have been used to worshipping without head coverings. In this letter Paul had already spoken about divisions and disorder in the church. Both are involved in this issue. Paul’s solution comes from his desire for unity among church members and for appropriateness in the worship service. He accepted God’s sovereignty in creating the rules for relationships... Thus Paul told the women who were not wearing head coverings to wear them, not because it was a Scriptural command, but because it kept the congregation from dividing over a petty issue that served only to take people’s minds off Christ.” [The Life Application® Bible, ©1991 by Tyndale House Publishers, page 2,078]

Day 6

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

⁷A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

Q32. Why should a man “not... cover his head”?

Q33. Why does Paul write that the “man... is the image and glory of God”?

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Q34. Compare Genesis 1:27 to 1 Corinthians 11:7. Why did Paul make the distinction that the man "is the image and glory of God" and that "the woman is the glory of man"? [Note: Some of the "modern, politically correct" Bible translations lose the distinctions that are apparent through the use of gender-specific pronouns in the NIV, ESV, and NAS versions of Genesis 1:27.]

Genesis 2:4-7

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens – ⁵ and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground – ⁷ the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:20^b-23

^{20^b} But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

⁸ For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; ⁹ neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

Q35. Why would Paul write, "neither was man created for woman, but woman for man"?

Q36. How has Satan attacked Paul's statement in our society?

¹⁰ For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head.

¹¹ In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹² For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God. ¹³ Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴ Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, ¹⁵ but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering.

Q37. What is Paul most concerned about, do you think? (And it has been a recurring theme throughout this letter.)

 “In talking about head coverings and length of hair, Paul is saying that Believers should look and behave in ways that are honorable within their own culture. In many cultures long hair on men is considered appropriate and masculine. In Corinth, it was thought to be a sign of male prostitution in the pagan temples. And women with short hair were labeled prostitutes. Paul was saying that in the Corinthian culture, Christian women should keep their hair long. If short hair on women was a sign of prostitution, then a Christian woman with short hair would find it even more difficult to be a believable witness for Jesus Christ. Paul wasn’t saying we should adopt all the practices of our culture, but that we should avoid appearances and behavior that detract from our ultimate goal of being believable witnesses for Jesus Christ while demonstrating our Christian faith.” [The Life Application® Bible, ©1991 by Tyndale House Publishers, page 2,079] And yes, the Christian life can be quite difficult.

 Our standard Biblical text in these StudySheets is the New International Version (NIV-1984). Now, compare our NIV-1984 text to the Message (MSG). I find that at times a paraphrase, such as the MSG, will help me to better understand the intent of other more word-for-word translations of the original manuscripts into English.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 [The Message (MSG)] [Paul did not want the irrelevant, the superficial, to interfere with his teaching. Paul wanted his audiences to focus on the words he was speaking and the example of personal living – servanthood – he demonstrated, not on the superficial: his looks, or what he ate.]

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized — whoever. I didn’t take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ — but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I’ve become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn’t just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!

¹⁶ If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice — nor do the churches of God.

 In many of Paul's writings, he is quite concerned about squabbles within the body of Believers – the church. Paul has taught us that we are to take a hard line on unrepentant, keep-on-sinning fellow Believers, but we are to go easy on the inconsequential things.

Romans 14:1&13

¹ Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... ¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

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