

All to the Glory of God

- Often think / dramatic moments of faith = bring glory to God
 - Preaching / witnessing / serving
 - Standing for truth = in times of trial
- Paul teaches us = we bring God glory by
 - Daily choices / quiet decisions / ordinary habits
 - Even simply acts of eating / drinking
- **Memory Text: 1 Corinthians 10:31** “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”
- Christian life / not divided into = sacred / ordinary categories
- In all our conduct = we should bring God glory
- Previous = Paul dealt w/sexual immorality **1 Corinthians 5-6**
- **1 Corinthians 6:18** “Flee sexual immorality” Why?
- **1 Corinthians 6:19** body /believer = “temple of the Holy Spirit”
- **1 Corinthians 6:20** we were “bought at a price” and therefore must “**glorify God**” in our body / spirit
- Studied transitional chapter **1 Corinthians 7**
 - indicates = immorality / idolatry related
- Now, we’ll study in **chapters 8-10** = danger of idolatry
- **1 Corinthians 10:14** “flee from idolatry”
- Just as / must flee sexual immorality = must also flee idolatry
- Scripture often links = these two sins
 - because both involve unfaithfulness to God
- **Acts 15:20, 29** mentions both idolatry / sexual immorality
- **Eph 5:5 / Col 3:5** connect immoral living w/ idolatrous hearts
- Both sins = distort worship / pull heart away from
 - wholehearted devotion to Lord
- Issue = deeper than conduct alone = about allegiance
 - Who has the heart? Who is on the throne?

- Last week = saw that by being temple of Holy Spirit
 - can flee sexual immorality
- This week = we'll see how we flee from idolatry by doing
 - “all to the glory of God”

Sunday = Knowledge vs Love

- **1 Corinthians 8** = Paul addresses problem = that had divided / church = **food offered to idols**
- Some Corinthian believers had knowledge / strong in their faith
 - **1 Corinthians 8:4**, understood **idols were nothing** = ***“there is no other God but one”***
 - Concluded / liberty = eat food offered to idols w/o concern
- **1 Corinthians 8:7** Paul describes others = recent converts out of paganism = didn't fully understand / had weaker consciences
 - troubled by eating food = associated w/ idol worship
- What “strong” saw as liberty
 - Weak” could experience as confusion / compromise
 - or even spiritual ruin = concluding that Christianity / idolatry = could somehow mix
- Paul begin by addressing difference between knowledge / love
- **1 Corinthians 8:1**. “We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies”
- Knowledge alone= can inflate ego w/pride
 - make us sharp / self-assured
- But love = builds up / strengthens / protects
 - Love thinks not only of what is true = but also how truth should be lived in way = that blesses others
- Paul = not condemning knowledge itself
- Right knowledge matters / truth matters / doctrine matters
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- **1 Corinthians 8:4–6** Paul affirms = only one true God
 - Paul echoes = **Deuteronomy 6:4** great confession of Israel
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!”
 - But what follows in **Deuteronomy 6:5**? “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart / soul / strength”
- 1 Corinthians 8:2-3** ²And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.
- I.E. = knowledge that does not produce humility = dangerous
 - True knowledge of God leads to love for God
 - love for God = shapes way we treat others
 - Knowledge that does not produce tenderness = wound souls
 - Knowledge that insists on rights while ignoring conscience of a brother / sister = is not reflecting / spirit of Jesus
 - **1 Corinthians 8:9** “Beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak”
 - Christian freedom = never permission to be careless w/ another person’s spiritual life
 - Love asks, not merely, “What am I allowed to do?” but
 - “Will this help someone closer to Jesus?”
 - Love asks, “Could my example confuse someone? Could my choices weaken another believer? Could my insistence on being right injure a soul Christ died to save?”
 - Paul beautifully expresses self-denying love, saying:
- 1 Corinthians 8:13** “Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble”
- That = spirit of Christ / Jesus did not cling to His rights
 - Gave Himself / humbled Himself / laid down His life to save us
 - Paul says = that same spirit must live in us
- 1 Corinthians 10:31** shines with great force: “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”

- To glorify God = live in such /way = His character is seen in us
- Our choices reflect His purity/ holiness = His unselfish love
- Means we do not ask merely, “Is this technically permissible?”
 - but = Does this honor God? Does this bless others?
 - Does this reflect Christ?”
- Principle reaches far beyond = food offered to idols
- Touches = words we speak / things we watch / places we go
 - habits we nurture / attitudes we carry
- Touches= entertainment / relationships / appetites / ambitions
 - and our use of freedom
- Every area of life /question same: Does this bring glory to God?
- We flee **immorality** = because / body = temple of Holy Spirit
- We flee **idolatry** = because / heart = belongs to God alone
- We walk in love = because Christ has loved us first
- In the end = highest calling of Christian life = not simply
 - to **know** truth—but to **live** it in love / for glory of God
- Prayer: Lord, let our knowledge be governed by love. Let our freedom be guided by grace. Let our choices honor You. Whether we eat / drink, speak / serve, worship / work, may all that we do bring glory to Your name.