

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

I Corinthians - Q & A

Paul begins his response to Corinthian requests for help with problems & questions...

- *They have been called out of a sinful, pagan culture*
- *Getting the culture out of them proves to be a trial*

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He first addressed open problems among them:

- *Divisions among congregations in The Church (1:10-13)*
- *Worldly wisdom vs God's wisdom*
- *Fornication worse than pagans being openly ignored*
- *Civil litigation & immorality among them*

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The culture & worldly wisdom were winning

- *Paul gives clear, strong correction*

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He then addresses their questions about ways of living in faith

- *He started with marriage, divorce & celibacy (Marriage being God's foundation for humanity)*

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I Corinthians 8:1-13 – Christian liberty in a sinful culture

- *Eating with idolaters in an idolatrous culture*

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The issue as it developed among them:

- ***What** you eat, **where** you eat, and **who** you eat with*

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Avoiding associating with worldly people is not the answer

- *He first corrected that misunderstanding in **5:9-10***

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Do our lives communicate who Jesus revealed Himself to be?

- *Is our faith as obvious in the world as it is in church?*
- *Is church where we are built up to live out there?*

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Vs. 1-2, Now concerning things offered to idols:

We know that we all

have knowledge. **Knowledge puffs up**, but

love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, **he knows nothing yet as he ought to know**.

- *Their letter must have mentioned some stated beliefs*
- *How are we using what we think we know? For love?*

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Vs. 3, But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

- *God knows who loves Him more than themselves*
- *It's probably obvious to others as well*

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Vs. 4-6, Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world (*God's world*), and that there is no other God but one. For even if there are **so-called gods**, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet **for us there is one God**,

the Father, **of whom are all things**, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom are all things**, and through whom we live.

.....
Paul states some bedrock knowledge of their faith

- **John 1:1-3**, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

.....
Vs. 7-11, However, *there is* not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now **eat it as a thing offered to an idol**; and **their conscience**, being weak, **is defiled**. But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow **this liberty of yours** become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And **because of your knowledge** shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

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Romans 14:14-23 (Vs.23), But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; **for whatever is not from faith is sin**.

.....
Vs. 12-13, But **when you** thus **sin against the brethren**, and wound their weak conscience, **you sin against Christ**. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, **I will never again eat meat**, lest I make my brother stumble.

- **True Christian liberty!!**

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Matthew 5:13-16, "You are the salt of the earth; but **if the salt loses its flavor**, how shall it be

seasoned? **It is** then good for nothing but to be thrown out and **trampled underfoot by men**.

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven**.

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How does Christ in us taste to people who don't know Him yet?

- **What does our life in the light of His life look like to them?**

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Do they know more about our earthly priorities than our love for Christ?

- *Might they feel loved by Christ because of how we love them? (I Cor. 8:1)*
- *Or have we only told them what we know?*

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Romans 10:14, How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear unless someone tells them?

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Matthew 13:33, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

- *Do we live among them close enough for them to know?*

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Christ did not sequester Himself from the sinful world around us...

- **John 20:21**, Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

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Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."