

Paul's First Letter to
the Corinthians

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you
do, do all to the glory of God.*

- 1 Corinthians 10:31

Class Time

- Prayer Requests
- Scripture Reading and Key Verse – **1st Corinthians 10:14-11:1**
- Class Discussion:
- Outline and Lesson

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸ Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? ¹⁹ What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

²² Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? ²³ "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.

²⁴ Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. ²⁵ Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁶ For “the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.” ²⁷ If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience— ²⁹ I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else’s conscience? ³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? ³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³ just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. ¹ Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

1st Corinthians -- 10:14-11:1

Key Verse

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

-- 1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)

**Discussion
Question #1**

In 10:14, what is the “therefore” there for?

1st Corinthians -- 10:14-11:1

In 10:16 - 20 Paul compares participation in the Lord's Supper with participation in pagan sacrificial meals.

- a. What does the word "participation" mean both here and as it is used in the entire NT? These verses will help:

1 Corinthians 11:23–26; Matthew 26:27;
Mark 14:23; Luke 22:17; 1 Corinthians 1:9;
2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1;
Romans 15:26; 2 Corinthians 8:4; 2
Corinthians 9:13; Galatians 2:9; Philippians
1:5; Philippians 3:10

Discussion Question #2a

**Discussion
Question #2b**

In 10:16 - 20 Paul compares participation in the Lord's Supper with participation in pagan sacrificial meals.

b. Compare 1 Cor. 10:19-20 with Deut. 32:17-18. What is the true supernatural power behind idolatry?

DISCUSSION QUESTION 2B

COMPARISON VERSES

1 Corinthians 10:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁹ What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

Deuteronomy 32:17–18 (ESV)

¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. ¹⁸ You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth.

Discussion Question #2c

In 10:16 - 20 Paul compares participation in the Lord's Supper with participation in pagan sacrificial meals.

c. How does Deut. 32:17-18 characterize participation in idolatry?

**Discussion
Question #3**

What is Paul's main point of 8:1 to 11:1?
What is the problem he addresses? What is the conclusion and solution he summarizes in 10:31-11:1?

I. Flee Pagan Worship vv 14-22

A. Evaluation vv 14-15

B. Comparison vv 16-18

1. Participation in Christ v 16

2. Participation with fellow
believers v 17

3. Participation in the altar v 18

4. Participation with demons vv
19-21

C. Provocation v 22

II. Seek Others' Good vv 23-30

A. The essence of Christian
Liberty vv 23-24

B. The use of Christian
Conscience vv 25-30

III. Pursue God's Glory vv 31-11:1

A. In all things v 31

B. By imitating Paul v 11:1
-- as he imitated Christ

[If $a = b$ and $b = c$
Then $a = c$]