

URGENT

1st
CENTURY
CIRCA ROM



1 Corinthians



The Apostle Paul's Mission to the Corinthians



Christ Bible Church



Adult Bible Class Calendar Spring 2023

Date			Lesson Portion of 1 Corinthians
1	February	5	Review of 1 Corinthians 1-7 & Preview of 1 Corinthians 8-11
2	February	12	1 Corinthians 8:1-6
3	February	19	1 Corinthians 8:7-13
4	February	26	1 Corinthians 9:1-14
5	March	5	1 Corinthians 9:15-27
6	March	12	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
7	March	19	1 Corinthians 10:14-22
8	March	26	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1
9	April	2	1 Corinthians 11:2-16
10	April	9	1 Corinthians 11:17-34

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

CONCERNING FOODS SACRIFICED TO IDOLS (8:1-11:1)
Correcting the Problem: Knowledge and Love (8:1-13)

False Standards of Holiness

•—————•
**SOME PROHIBITIONS THAT
GO BEYOND SCRIPTURE**

Members of _____ Christian College, being Christian, acknowledge their individual responsibility to order every aspect of private and public life for the glory of God, the encouragement of others, and personal growth in grace. We continually strive for Christian maturity in interpersonal relationships.

Applying the foregoing principles and in concern for the individuals within and without our college community, members of the administration, faculty, staff and students shall totally abstain from participation in the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, non-medicinal drugs, gambling in any form and dancing.

These activities are not allowed either on or off campus. Willful indulgence on the part of any member of this College will result in administrative review and appropriate disciplinary action. Continued participation will result in dismissal from the College community.



False Standards of Holiness



A Relatively Recent Development

**THE PRESENCE OF PAGAN
TEMPLES**



Buddhist Temple – Chisago City, MN



Hindu Temple – Maple Grove, MN

Once upon a time, whether to eat or not eat foods offered on pagan altars was a moot question for most of us. Not necessarily so, anymore. Pagan temples are now here.



Hindu Temple – Sacrifice

An Even More Recent Development

•—————•
**GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED
CURTAILING OF GOD-GIVEN
FREEDOMS**

Within the last three years, Scripture's instruction concerning the freedom of the conscience under the Lordship of Christ Jesus has taken on fresh significance since the government's intrusion into our lives with governor-ordered mandates that criminalized our gathering together for worship followed by government-sponsored high-pressure to receive Emergency Use Authorization jabs.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

Emergency Executive Order 20-20

Directing Minnesotans to Stay at Home

I, **Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota**, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

1. Beginning on Friday, March 27, 2020 at 11:59 pm through Friday, April 10, 2020 at 5:00 pm, all persons currently living within the State of Minnesota are ordered to stay at home or in their place of residence except to engage in the Activities and Critical Sector work set forth below in Paragraphs 5 and 6.
 - v. **Faith leaders and workers.** This category includes officials, workers, and leaders in houses of worship and other places of religious expression or fellowship, wherever their services may be needed. This category also includes workers necessary to plan, record, and distribute online or broadcast content to community members.
9. I urge all Minnesotans to voluntarily comply with this Executive Order. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 12.45, a person who willfully violates this Executive Order is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction must be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days. Nothing in this Executive Order is intended to encourage or allow law enforcement to transgress individual constitutional rights.

Signed on March 25, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Walz".

Tim Walz
Governor

Governor Walz criminalized our gathering together for worship.



An Even Worse Development

•—————•
**EVANGELICAL LEADERS
CONDEMN BELIEVERS AS
UNLOVING FOR NOT RECEIVING
THE EUA JAB**

Evangelical Leaders Condemn Believers as Unloving for Not Receiving the EUA Job



To Receive the Jab? Yes, or No?



To Mask or Not to Mask



To Jab your Children? Yes, or No?

Evangelical Leaders Oppose Christian Liberty and Constitutionally Guaranteed Liberties

Evangelical Leaders Condemn Freedom as Hate

- **Francis Collins**, director of the National Institutes of Health, appealed to Christians: “Brothers and sisters, this really is a love-your-neighbor moment. . . . When the data really was unblinded in early December, and the answer was 95% efficacy, with no evidence of a safety problem, I have to say I cried tears of joy. It was an answer, even beyond what I had almost dared to pray for.”
- **Rick Warren**: “Wearing a mask is the great commandment—love your neighbor as yourself. . . . Let me just say a word to the priests and pastors and rabbis and other faith leaders. This is our job, to deal with these conspiracy issues and things like that. . . . One of the responsibilities of faith leaders is to tell people to . . . trust the science. They’re not going to put out a vaccine that’s going to hurt people.”
- **Russell Moore** (ERLC) argued, “We can express our love for neighbor—especially the sick and elderly—by reducing the chance that we might inadvertently pass along a virus that could kill them. . . . All we are asked to do is to get a shot.”
- **David French**: “When I’m standing next to an unmasked family in church, I’m not thinking they’re brave or bold. I’m seeing instead a tangible disregard for the health and safety of those around them.” (The Spiritual Problem at the Heart of Christian Vaccine Refusal—Why are so many white Evangelicals reluctant to consider the health of their community?)

Freedom of Conscience
Concerning Things God
Does Not Forbid or Command
1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1

Outline of 1 Corinthians

- I. Introduction (1:1-9).
- II. Responses to Received Reliable Oral Reports from the Corinthians (1:10-6:20).
- III. Responses to a Letter from the Corinthians (7:1-16:4).
 - A. Concerning Marriage and Related Questions (7:1-40).
 - B. Concerning Foods Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-11:1).
 - 1. **Correcting the Problem: Knowledge and Love (8:1-13).**
 - 2. Modeling Proper Use & Non-Use of Christian Freedom (9:1-27).
 - 3. Applying a Warning: Israel's Example (10:1-13).
 - 4. An Analogy: The Lord's Table (10:14-22).
 - 5. Summarizing the Corrective: True Limitations of Christian Freedom (10:23-11:1).

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 - a. **Paul's Statement of the Principle of Knowledge & Love (8:1-3).**
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1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Correcting the Problem: Knowledge & Love

- **Paul's Statement of the Principle of Knowledge and Love (8:1-3).**
- **Paul's Use of the Principle of Knowledge and Love (8:4-13).**
 - **Use of Knowledge (8:4-8).**
 - **Use of Love (8:9-13).**

1 Corinthians 8:7-8

However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat and no better off if we do.

There Were Likely Three Different Levels of Conscience in the Corinthian Church

Weak in Conscience

(Bound Conscience;
Inducible to Act
against Conscience)

Bound Conscience

(Not Free to Eat Foods
Offered to Idols,
also More Likely to
Condemn those who
are Free than to be
tempted to Act against
Conscience)

Strong in Conscience

(Free Conscience)

Romans 14:1, 2, 21

¹ As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.

²¹ It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble or be weakened.

Who Is the “Weak in Conscience” Christian?

- A Christian who has scruples about something not evil in itself.
 - Erroneously judges as evil something not evil in itself.
 - If the person uses the forbidden thing, that person sins by acting against conscience.
 - The sin is not in the thing itself but in acting against one’s bound conscience.
 - To act against conscience is to sin
- A Christian who is not intemperate concerning the thing regarded as evil in itself.
- A Christian who is not intemperate concerning the thing regarded as evil in itself.
- A Christian who does not recognize oneself as “weak in conscience.” The Christian mistakenly equates “strength of convictions” with “strength of conscience.”
- A Christian may be “weak in conscience” concerning one thing but “strong in conscience” concerning other things.

Who Is the “Strong in Conscience” Christian?

- A Christian who knows that things are not sinful in themselves.
- A Christian who possesses full liberty of conscience to do in the presence of God what a Christian who is “weak in conscience” condemns as sinful.

1 Corinthians 8:8

- Paul admonishes both the “weak” and the “strong”—“Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat and no better off if we do.”
- Paul models how the “strong in conscience” should behave—“Food does not commend us to God. He will not judge us according to the foods we have eaten. Eating or not eating has gives no advantage.”
- Paul says the same thing to the Romans—“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17).

1 Corinthians 8:9-13

But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so, by your knowledge, this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, by sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Paul's Admonitions to the "Strong in Conscience"

1. Receive the "weak in conscience" with love and watchfulness for their good.
2. Do not be puffed up with knowledge and look down upon or condemn the "weak in conscience" (1 Corinthians 8:1-2; Romans 14:3, 10).
3. Determine never to cause the "weak in conscience" to stumble into sin by imitating your freedom, thus doing what the conscience forbids.
4. In 1 Corinthians 8:10, Paul does not suggest that Christians in Corinth could go to pagan temples and dine there. See 1 Corinthians 10:14-22—Paul forbids eating at pagan temples.
5. 1 Corinthians 8:11—Do not allow your "free conscience" behavior to cause someone to perish eternally.
6. 1 Corinthians 8:12—Causing a fellow Christian to sin by imitating your freedom is a sin against Jesus Christ.
7. 1 Corinthians 8:13—"I will never eat meat forever, lest my brother fall away."
8. Not speaking about freedom but acting on one's freedom in the presence of others who are bound that can intimidate and cause them to stumble.

Some Applications

- These considerations emphasize how wrong we are to arrogate to ourselves God's prerogative to dictate right and wrong.
- This underscores the reality that we all stand before our Lord individually.
- By adding to what God has forbidden and commanded, sincere Christians put both themselves and others at risk concerning true holiness.
- We learn the vital importance of living by faith with a robust and clean conscience.
- One of the most effective weapons Satan exploits against us the frowning disapproval of fellow Christians.
- We learn the necessity to submit to the sufficiency of Scripture. What God forbids and commands marks out true holiness, not our scruples concerning things.

Unity of Christ's Body Depends Heavily upon Those Who Are "Strong in Conscience"

1. Only the "strong in conscience" can adapt to the "weak in conscience." The "weak" cannot adjust to the "strong."
2. Therefore, unity and its endurance largely depends on those who are "strong in conscience" to teach those who are "weak in conscience" to recognize that things are not evil in themselves.
3. Real diversity always exists in Christ's body, his church. Diversity is a reality; it is not a quest. Our pursuit must be unity, not diversity.
4. Unity is not uniformity. We aim for uniformity—everyone conformed to the image of Christ Jesus—but we must be content with unity in this present age.
5. God's glory is at stake in the unity of his people.

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