

**HOLY MANY IN UNHOLY SOCIETY:
A study in I and II Corinthians
AMEN Bible Study 2013-2014**

**Disciplined Freedom - I Corinthians 8:1-9:27
November 14, 2013**

Outline of I Corinthians 8:1-11:1

A. Eating in the temples contradicts Christian love	8:1-13
B. Consider Paul	9:1-27
C. Eating in the temples contradicts Christian worship	10:1-22
1. Christian sacraments can give false security	10:1-13
2. The nature of cultic feasts forbids our participation	10:14-22
D. We are free to eat marketplace meat - - - with qualifications	10:23-11:1
cf. Acts 15:29; 21:25; Revelation 2:14, 20	

8:1-13 I. Love triumphs over “knowledge.”

- :1-3 A. Knowledge minus love equals arrogance.
“Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that ‘all of us possess knowledge.’ This ‘knowledge’ puffs up, but love builds up.”
- :2 1. We don’t know as much as we think.
“If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.”
- :3 2. We know only because we’re known.
“But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.” cf. I John 4:10
- :4-6 3. We think our knowledge sets us free. cf. John 8:32
- :4 a. Idols have no substance.
“Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that ‘an idol has no real existence,’ and that ‘there is no God but one.’” cf. Psalm 95:5; 115:4-8; Isaiah 37:19
- :5, 6 b. God is the only true God.
“For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as indeed there are many ‘gods’ and many ‘lords’ – yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”
cf. Deuteronomy 6:4
- :7-13 B. Love protects our brother’s conscience.
- :7 1. Some believers have weak consciences.
“However, not all possess knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.”
cf. Romans 14:1-12
- :8-13 2. Food doesn’t matter but brothers do.
“Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 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, sinning against your brother 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.”
cf. Romans 14:13-15:7; Matthew 25:42-45; Acts 9:4

Westminster Confession of Faith, XX, 2, 3 – God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in anything, contrary to his Word; or beside it, if matters of faith, or worship. So that, to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands, out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience: and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.

They who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, do practice any sin, or cherish any lust, do thereby destroy the end of Christian liberty, which is, that being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

9:1-27 II. We must emulate the Apostle.

“Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.”

:3

A. We have moral rights.

“This is my defense to those who would examine me.”

:4

1. Food and drink

“Do we not have the right to eat and drink?”

:5

2. Marriage

“Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?”

:6-14

3. Remuneration

“Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.’ Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who are employed in temple service get their food from the temple and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. cf. Matthew 10:10; I Timothy 5:18

:15-27

B. We prefer bragging rights to moral rights.

:15-17

1. We boast not of presenting the gospel.

“But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. For if I preach the gospel that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.” cf. Jeremiah 20:9

:18-24

2. We boast of freely presenting the gospel.

“What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.” cf. I Thess 2:9; II Thess 3:6-9

:19-22

a. We serve others.

“For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people that by all means I might save some.” cf. II Corinthians 4:5; Acts 16:1-3; 17:22f; 21:23-26

:23

b. We serve the gospel.

“I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.”

:24-27

c. We serve vigorously.

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.” Cf. Philippians 4:1; I Thessalonians 2:19; Colossians 1:29; II Timothy 4:8