

1 Corinthians 10

Life Group Notes

Read 1 Corinthians 10; Prov. 18:18

1. What would you say to the person who claimed that 1 Corinthians chapters 8 to 10 have no relevance for UK Christians today? If you were asked to summarise the contemporary lesson of chapter 8 and 9 in one short sentence, what would you say?
2. Why did Paul need to write “If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall” (v12) to Christians in Corinth? How did this apply to them specifically? How might this warning apply to us?
3. Read v1-11. Cutting through all the figurative language of these verses, what is the simple message that Paul is communicating to the church at Corinth? Why does he give a history lesson? See v1-7, 11.
4. In which way were some members of the Corinthians church courting temptation? In which ways do we, today, do the same? In which ways might we safeguard ourselves against temptation (Paul says to “be careful” (v12) but what might this mean practically)?
5. In which ways does God “provide a way of escape”? (v13). Take a look at v14 also.
6. Read v14-20. Is Paul contradicting himself in v20? Compare 8:4. In which ways do people interact with demons today without being aware they are doing so?
7. Read v25-30. Would you have liked Paul to have been a little more straightforward with his answer of meat sacrificed to idols? Why wasn’t a simply ‘yes’ or ‘no’ sufficient? Was Paul himself inconsistent on what he ate and with whom?
8. Read 10:31-11:1. What principles does Paul emphasise in his summary?

A helpful guideline

In Christ we are free, and everything is permissible for us, BUT— (we need to qualify that by asking....)

1. Will it lead to our freedom or slavery? (6:12)
2. Will it make me a stumbling block or a stepping stone for others? (8:13)
3. Will it build me up or tear me down? (10:23)
4. Will it honour Christ? (10:31)
5. Will it help to win the lost to Christ or turn others away? (10:33)