

STUDY GUIDE WEEK 8



KEY VERSE OF WEEK 8

"But whoever loves God is known by God."
1 Corinthians 8:3

CONTEXT

In this week's study on Chapter 8, Paul is addressing a question that the Corinthians have put before him. Their question is about eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols. "What's the deal with meat and idols?" The Corinthians lived in a world that worshipped many gods. They would offer meat on pagan altars in an act of pagan worship. The way they offered the meat was in three parts. The first part of meat was a burnt sacrifice in honor of the god. Don't worry, this is different than that Thanksgiving Turkey your mom may have burnt. :) The second part was given to the pagan worshipper to take home as a meal, and the third part was given to the temple priest. If the temple priest refused to eat it, the third portion of meat was sold at a temple restaurant or meat market. The situation was that the meat sold at the temple was cheaper than regularly sold meat. Everybody wants a good deal and Christians were no different. Christians were buying the sacrificed meat and eating it because it was a bargain meal. The question from the Corinthians to Paul comes out of this context. Is it okay for Christians to eat this meat that has been sacrificed to idols when they worship Christ and don't believe in any other god but The Living Christ? So Paul begins by answering the question with two responses. "Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one." He states the facts that idols are nothing and there is no other God but one. So logically they could eat the meat because it doesn't mean anything. However, the Corinthians were split on that issue. Some were able to logically come to that conclusion and eat the bargain meat, but others perhaps that had once partaken in the sacrifices before they became Christ Followers were unable to separate their previous way of living with their life in Christ. Therefore, it was a not something they were able to do and it was causing a division in the church. Paul basically says that if it is a stumbling block for another believer, than the best way to love them is to not eat the meat.

Several years ago I was in Athens, Greece and I was walking among the ruins of the ancient buildings. I found myself tripping over some of the pieces of the building that had fallen from their spot in the architecture over the years. Someone said, "You now know why they use the phrase stumbling block in the Bible." It never hit me until then that a block that has fallen out of a building is what that is referring to. The block is now in the walking path of someone and it causes them to trip on their journey. As you study this chapter this week, consider the Corinthian believers and the dilemma they were in. There were those that logically knew that what they were doing by eating the meat was no big deal. However, if they looked at the situation through the filter of God's love, eating the bargain meat in front of those who used to sacrificed the meat before coming to Christ was causing them to have some issues in their spiritual walk. So if they just said no to eating the meat because they loved their brother and sister, the issue would be resolved. This week, what is it that you may need to say, "it's not worth it if I am going to cause issues for my brother and sister in Christ." There is a lot going on right now in our world in regards to the pandemic and politics. There may be other things as well that are causing a distraction in your student ministry or with your friends. Is there something you are hanging on to that may be causing a stumbling block for another friend? Listen what The Lord put on Faith Grosshans heart this week on girlsministrycollective.com.

Praying for you, Sis!

Follow us on instagram @girlsministrycollective and use the #girlsministrycollective so we can cheer you on as you study with us in 1 Corinthians!



Faith Grosshans
GIRLS MINISTER

"FIGHTING FOR OTHERS SPIRITUAL
WELL-BEING"

1 CORINTHIANS 8

DO THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE KNOW THE THINGS YOU STRUGGLE WITH?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR FELLOW SISTER STRUGGLES WITH, AND DO YOU CARE ENOUGH TO GIVE SOMETHING UP IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR SPIRITUAL HEALTH?

HAS ANYONE EVER ASKED YOU TO GIVE UP SOMETHING FOR THEM? HOW DID YOU RESPOND TO THEIR REQUESTS?

IS THERE SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE YOU WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME GIVING UP (A HOBBY, BEHAVIOR, WAY OF LIFE, A RELATIONSHIP), FOR SOMEONE THAT YOU LOVE? WHY?

HOW DO YOU MATURE IN YOUR FAITH WITHOUT HAVING A KNOWLEDGE THAT PUFFS UP? WHAT FREEDOMS DID CHRIST GIVE UP?

PRAY

Before you start to read the chapter of the week, ask The Lord to help you read His Word today. Ask Him to teach you today. Ask Him to see things in your own life you can't see. Ask Him to help you take what you read and apply it.

READ

What verses are you reading from today? _____

What version of the bible are you reading it in today? (Try reading it in 3 different translations. Circle the translations you are reading it in below.)

Formal Translations:

"word for word" translation

New American Standard
English Standard Version
Holman Christian Standard
Revised Standard Version
New RSV

Functional Translations:

"Thought for thought"

New International Version
New American Bible
Revised English Bible
Good News Bible
New Living Translation

Free Translations:

"A Paraphrase"

New English Bible
Living Bible
The Message

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Write out what is happening in the verses you read. Put it in your own words.

APPLY

Reflect on what you just read, and walk through these questions with Jesus.

Is there a sin I need to confess to Him and ask Him to forgive me?

Is there a truth that I need to believe today?

Is there a promise that I need to hear and hold on to today?

Is there something I need to ask The Lord to help me live differently because of what I just read?

QUESTIONS

What questions came up when you read the verses today? Were there words or customs that you didn't understand? Write those out. Those are important to not just pass over. Those are some of the ways He calls your attention to something you need to pay attention to in your own life.

PRAY/JOURNAL

Take some time to pray/journal after your time of reading. Ask God to change your heart so that you look more and more like Him and less and less like the world. Ask Him to break your heart for what breaks His heart. Ask Him to help you focus on Him and less on what is all around you.