

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"SOLI DEO GLORIA" | 1 COR 10:14-33 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

How do you decide what to eat or not to eat as you go about your week?

"Keep Fleeing Idolatry" 1 Corinthians 10: 14-22

Paul warns the Corinthians to flee from idolatry and to be careful about how they eat and participate in their community because they should want to please God above all. **What are ways people today may take idolatry lightly?**

"Lawful and Loving" 1 Corinthians 10: 23-30

Paul explains that while "all things are lawful", Christ-followers should restrict their rights and freedoms for the good of others. **What helps someone put aside their freedom for others? Who is someone you think of who does this well?**

"Simple Summation" 1 Corinthians 10: 31-33

Paul sums up the last 3 chapters about food and idols which were big gray areas in his day by saying Christ-followers should do all for the glory of God. **How is this guideline easier than hundreds of rules for each situation? How is this guideline harder than lots of rules?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Life is full of gray areas where each of us must decide what is the right thing to do. Paul gives us the overriding guide of do everything for the glory of God, and the way we bring Him glory is by loving others so they may be saved. **What are areas in your life you struggle to put God first? Do you think about how your actions may affect your ability to witness to the people you come in contact with? Pray that God would give you strength to live for Him and love others in every situation.**

1 Corinthians 10:14-33

4-07-24

Soli Deo Gloria / glory to God alone

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to all who watching on, at home, in your car (keep your eyes on the road). *We are glad you are listening in today!*
- B. **Slide1 Sunday Night Prayer:** Join us as we pray for our community around us and for each other. Tonight at 6:30pm in the Agape Room.
- C. **Slide2 Legacy:** In a few weeks, the next phase of our church remodel will begin. We will be remodeling *the front of the church, the lobby, and putting in a small coffee shop during this phase*. The **final phase** of our remodel, the **youth center**, will hopefully begin in a few months once we get permits from the City.
1. As we continue to move forward, we have a fun opportunity to support our Youth as a church family. Immediately after service **today**, head out to the **Learning Center**, get a donut, and support our Youth by **bidding on items at our silent action** to raise money for our new Youth Center.
 2. We have some *fun baskets, storm game tickets, and a piece of custom furniture*. The silent auction is right next to the donuts in LC 1, so we made it super convenient for you to spend some time *eating, fellowshiping, and financially supporting* our Youth as we add a building to our campus for the first time in over 20 years. **Another way** to financially support the Youth Center is to go on our website or our app and click on **Building on Faith**. You are able to give a 1-time gift or you can commit to a monthly amount during the course of our building project.

D. Prayer:

II. Slide3 Intro:

- A. **Soli Deo Gloria**/glory to God alone - ch.8-10 summed up with *do all to the glory of God!*
1. 1 of the **5 sola's**/alone from the **reformation** (famous composers *Bach/Handel* would sign their music w/**SDG** to signify that the work was produced for the sake of praising God)
- B. 3 weeks ago we left off w/Paul discussing what do you do with *mystery meat* :)

1. To eat or not to eat that's the question! In ch.8 it was not about the menu but the venue (where you were eating). But here it was not about the venue but the menu (where the mystery meat came from, *poss sac to idols*).
- C. Again, *why do we care?* Because these ch's are for decision-making and gray areas, and when there's *no direct command in Scripture*.
- D. In ch.8 Paul pointed us to 3 things: *knowledge, conscience, love*. **Knowledge** (what does God's word teach). **Conscience** (right or wrong). **Love** (do what's best).
 1. So when you're asking, *should I attend this wedding? Which job should I take? How does a parent support an adult child, in what you believe is a bad decision?* [what principles can I apply, *prayerfully and wisely?*]
 2. Paul is using these chapters *to point us in the right direction*.
 3. Paul is ever mindful of the danger of **legalism**, and the importance of **Christian freedom**.

III. Slide4 **KEEP FLEEING IDOLATRY (14-22)** *Read 14, 15 only!*

- A. Paul starts with **beloved**. Wow, this is *a clinic for Christians* to have conversations with other Christians (not to start off as *punitive*, but **tender**).
- B. (14,15) **Flee idolatry** - (Byron James at 6'1", cornerback Cowboys/Dolphins, from standing position, jumped twice his height - **Yet**, a flea can do 200 x's its body length). So when I read this I think, *flee like a flea!*
 1. Pres tense **flee idolatry**, *keep fleeing idolatry*.
 2. Slide5 Modern-day **Idolatry** is the *misdirection* of our **worship**. **Idolatry** is giving of oneself *to someone or something other than* the true and living God. **Idolatry** is rooted in *a diluted understanding of God*.
 - a) You're **sensible people**, judge for yourself *what I say*. *If you **flee** idolatry, you won't fall into it. If you **flirt** with it or take it **lightly**, you will.*
- C. Slide6 (*Read* 16,17) **Contrast** - Paul doesn't talk about *behavior modifications* (*don't do bad things, keep doing good things*). **Instead**, a **theological modification**. *Contrast the Lord's Supper that we participate in.*

1. This is a meal where we: *draw near to Christ, draw near to one another. It's a meal where we remember. A meal where we fellowship with him. And where we feast on Him.*

a) So this is *one of the ways* we *flee idolatry* is by *feasting on Him*. It's where we find *Jesus* as *a Superior Satisfaction*.

D. (17) *one bread* - Jesus, who united us into one body. *We are people from so many diverse backgrounds yet was able to make us into a people together.*

E. *Slide7 (Read 18-22)* You're crazy if you think you can *dine with demons*.

1. *Idols aren't real, but demons are.* As you cozy up to these *idols*, you're yoking yourself with *demons*.

2. Which is totally incompatible, *both eating at Demon tables, then changing tables to dine at a communion table.* [some see that as covering all the bases]

F. *Paul* is pulling an *Elijah at Mount Carmel* where he asked, *How long will you waiver between 2 opinions?* If *the Lord* is *God*, follow Him, if *Baal* follow *him*.

1. Paul is saying, *make the right choice*. Don't take *sin and idolatry* lightly. Our God is a *jealous* God.

G. My beloved, it's my pleasure this morning to remind you: *Jesus is better than sin. Jesus is better than idolatry.* And to take **the exit** He provides (v.13, *He will provide the way of escape*).

IV. *Slide8a* **LAWFUL and LOVING (23-30)** *Read*

A. (23) So being mindful of *the danger of legalism* **and** *the importance of Christian freedom*. He teaches us how to find our Christian freedom: *for the glory of God, and the good of other people.* These are tied together & pictured perfectly in *Jesus*.

B. *All things are lawful* (*popular slogans* in their day) - let's pause and remind ourselves we are *free in Christ*.

1. *The gospel has liberated us from sin, from Satan, from death, from hell, from man's rules.* We are set free from the *shackles of legalism*.

2. **But ...** there are times we will want to *restrict our freedoms ... for the well-being of others.*
3. **Slide8b So** we're not only asking what is **lawful**, **but** what is **loving**.

V. Slide9a **SIMPLE SUMMATION (31-33) +11:1 Read**

- A. At the end of this chapter, we're wrapping up a bigger unit of thought, a marker, a transition of these last 3 chapters. *How do we live out our liberty in Christ?* Well, in vs.31 *this is the central theme, this is the point of the Christian life, to glorify God.*
1. **Maybe we don't know what that means yet?** What does it mean *to bring glory to God?* That's a **big egg** to try to **crack, fry and serve up** in this 1 message ... *but I'll take a crack at it.*
 - a) **God is the most glorious being in all the universe.**
 2. **Slide9b** This is dated illustration **but** still **applicable**, from St. Francis de Sales: *Some men become proud and insolent because they ride a fine horse, wear a feather in their hat or are dressed in a fine suit of clothes. Who does not see the folly of this? If there be any glory in such things, the glory belongs to the horse, the bird and the tailor.*
- B. You and I might no longer seek *mediaeval haloes*, **but** we want something that will make people say ... *What a man of prayer he is!* (prays in Old King James). *What a devoted woman she is!* (goes to 2 bible studies a week).
1. **It takes Almighty God in us** for us to do *the most trivial duty, to the glory of God.* **It takes God's Spirit in us** to make us so **absolutely humanly His** ... *that* we are utterly unnoticeable.
 2. **Our aim?** to manifest **the glory of God** in everyday life, *to live the life hid with Christ in God* in all human conditions. [result? our glorification!]
 3. **Even the shallow** things of life are **ordained of God** (like eating, drinking or doing); they are as much **of God** as the **profound**.

C. Slide9c Here's the question to ask: *What can I do with the gifts that I have, to bring glory to God, for the service of the gospel?*

D. There are many ways in scripture on how we can **glorify** God:

1. Joshua 7:19 *we glorify God* by confessing sin. Romans 4:20 *we glorify God* by trusting him. John 15 by bearing fruit. Psalm 50 by thanking Him. 1 Pet.4 by suffering for Christ. Phil. 4 by being content in our circumstances. 2 Thes 3:1 by spreading His word.
2. Slide9d Q: *What is the chief end of man?* A. *Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.* (Westminster shorter Catechism)

E. Slide10 (32) Note, **Jews**, the **Greeks**/Gentiles, & the **Church**.

1. **End times debates:** large part depends on your understanding of **Israel**.
 - a) **God is through** with Israel/Jews, and the church is now spiritual Israel? Or, **God is not through** with Israel, & the church is *new & distinct from* Israel?

F. (33) In this passage, Paul's reminding us we can **glorify God** by *living for the spiritual well-being of other people*.

G. **That they may be saved** - seeing their conversions was more important to Paul **than his comforts and his freedoms**.

1. **Jesus** is *the ultimate example* of giving up one's rights, *for the spiritual well-being of others*.

H. (11:1) Follow me, to the degree, that I follow **Jesus**. *Jesus best example of bringing glory to God*.

1. **The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.** Heb.1:3 NLT

I. Slide11a **To Glorify God means?** - not to bestow glory on God or add to His glory, but to recognize and acknowledge His glory. The verb glorify means, "to give

weight to” or *“to honor.”* Thus, to glorify God is to recognize God for who He really is and to respond appropriately. [here’s how I saw God glorified in my studies]

- J. **Slide11b** There are **3 main verbs** used in the Hebrew that may be translated **to create** (bara, asah, yatsar. *qanah*). They can all have human or divine subjects who create - **except** bara. [Bara **always** has a divine subject - God]¹
1. Only **God’s creative activity** can be described by this verb (used in all the creation story).
- K. **All** that God created in His creation story was **spectacular**. Yet God has created **even more** marvelous things - if that were possible. Us!
- L. **Slide11c** Is.43:7, *everyone who is called by my name, whom I created (bara) for **my glory**, whom I formed (yatsar) and made (asah).*
1. **Created** (bara) - God did what only He could do in **creating** us. But He also ...
 2. **Formed** (yatsar) - God got down in the dirt and **formed** us (making man). And He ...
 3. **Made** (asah) - **then made** us, breathing His life in to us, causing us **“to be”**.
- M. ***But**, then it went up. Another notch, causing me to read Ps.51:10 differently.
1. **Slide11d** **David**, seeking **peace** and **freedom** from his guilt, cried out to God, **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.** [which verb did David use? (bara) **only something God can do**]
 2. Who can **forgive sins** but **the One** who can create a **pure heart** from an **evil one**? **David** was imploring/entreating/begging **the Creator God**, who was the only One who could do what he was asking.
 3. **CM only God can create pure hearts, and free us from guilt. Only God.**
 - a) **Soli Deo Gloria / glory to God alone.**

N. Keywords: glory, idolatry, legalism.

¹ Carpenter, E. E., & Comfort, P. W. (2000). In Holman treasury of key Bible words: 200 Greek and 200 Hebrew words defined and explained (p. 42). Broadman & Holman Publishers.