

Body by God

Discovering Principles from 1 & 2 Corinthians about Building Up Christ's Body

Give It Up!

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 8-10

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

At a concert, when the band is introduced, the emcee exhorts the audience to “give it up” for them, meaning to let the band know that they really appreciate them by some vigorous applause. It is understood that it takes effort to give something up, and that even a small sacrifice costs us something. This idea certainly applies in the study of 1 Corinthians 8-10. The public market in Corinth had meat for sale that had been sacrificed to idols. While knowledgeable Corinthians understood that they were free to buy this meat, this freedom could have caused some of their weaker brothers to stumble spiritually. So, in chapter 8 Paul asked the Corinthians to give up their right to buy such meat for the sake of their “weaker” broth-

ers—the ones who hadn't fully appropriated their freedom in Christ. However, not only should Christians “give it up” for the saved, but, as chapter 9 explains, we are to give up our personal freedom for the sake of the lost. Paul used himself as an example of this by pointing out that he had even refused wages for preaching in order to demonstrate his sincerity in reaching the lost. Furthermore, he was willing to “become all things to all men” that he might win some, so he submitted his personal desires to this objective. In doing this, he wanted to serve Christ with the same passion that an athlete exhibits when trying to win a race. Finally, as chapter 10 points out, we



Following God's principles will develop a church body that can glorify Him fully

should give up our personal desires for the sake of God. As Israel illustrated, when these desires go unchecked God's children are exposed to the hand of God's discipline. Also, by associating in worldly activities, we often dishonor His Name as well. For the sake, therefore, of the saved, the lost, and of God, we must be willing to “give it up”.

Study/Discussion Questions for 1 Corinthians 8-10

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

1. Read 8:1-6. What did the Corinthians know (v4, 6), and how do you think they used this knowledge to justify eating meat sacrificed to idols? What does knowledge tend to do (v1, 2), and what must balance it (v1, 3)?

2. From 8:7-13 how did those without this knowledge react when they saw a stronger brother eating meat offered to idols (v7, 10)? Due to this, what was the stronger brother to do (v13), and why (v12)?

3. In 7:1-7 what did Paul have a right to do (v4-6), and why (v1-2,7)? How did Paul apparently view his freedom? How can you apply this?

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I Corinthians 8-10 Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 9:8-18, in what principle does Paul believe (v11, 14), and why (v9-10, 13)? Why did Paul not exercise this right (v12, 15, 16-18)? What can we learn from this?

5. From 9:19-23 how would you define Paul's personal mission statement (v22), and how did he carry this out (v19-22)? What was his motivation (v23), and what did he mean by that?

6. Based on 9:24-27 how did Paul pursue his calling from Christ (v24, 25, 26, 27), and why (v25, 27)? What would that look like in your life?

7. Using 10:1-5 what common experiences did the fathers (Israelites) have (v1-4), and yet what was their outcome (v5)? What can we learn from this?

8. In 10:6-13 list the things that Israel did wrong while in the wilderness (v6, 7, 8, 9, 10). Why were their experiences recorded (v11), what should we learn from them (v12-13), and what promise from God can we rely on (v13)?

9. Looking at 10:14-22 what does Paul teach about participation in the Lord's supper (v15-17)? How does this compare to Israel (v18), and the Gentiles (v19-20). What does this practically mean (v20-21), and why (v22)?

10. From 10:23-33 what 4 questions should limit our freedom (v23, 31, 32)? How did Paul advise them to put this into practice (v25-26, 27, 28-30), and how should we apply this today?

11. What are some areas of personal freedom which you would be willing to give up for the sake of the saved, or the lost, or for God? Be ready to talk about this in your ABFs.

“And I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow partaker of it.”

1 Corinthians 9:23

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship)

1. Tell the group what your usual reaction is to the Word of God—anticipation, confusion, or indifference? Why do you think that is?
2. Why was it important that Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets? What did that do for us, and what does that say to us about our relationship to God's Word?
3. How do you show your confidence in God's Word today? What are some ways that we fail to show our confidence in His Word?
4. Talk about some of the traditions that, at times, we hold more sacred than God's Word.
5. Why do we often make righteousness about external behavior, than internal obedience? How can we use the Bible as a life-book, and not a rulebook?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from this week's message if you have time.