

# Studies in 1 Corinthians

## Lesson XXVII: Dealing with Differences

TEXT: 1 COR. 10:14-33 (NLT)

**14** So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols. **15** You are reasonable people. Decide for yourselves if what I am saying is true. **16** When we bless the cup at the Lord's Table, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ? **17** And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.

**18** Think about the people of Israel. Weren't they united by eating the sacrifices at the altar? **19** What am I trying to say? Am I saying that food offered to idols has some significance, or that idols are real gods? **20** No, not at all. I am saying that these sacrifices are offered to demons, not to God. And I don't want you to participate with demons. **21** You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and from the cup of demons, too. You cannot eat at the Lord's Table and at the table of demons, too. **22** What? Do we dare to rouse the Lord's jealousy? Do you think we are stronger than he is?

**23** You say, "I am allowed to do anything"<sup>[d]</sup>—but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is beneficial. **24** Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others. **25** So you may eat any meat that is sold in the marketplace without raising questions of conscience. **26** For "the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."<sup>[e]</sup>

**27** If someone who isn't a believer asks you home for dinner, accept the invitation if you want to. Eat whatever is offered to you without raising questions of conscience. **28** (But suppose someone tells you, "This meat was offered to an idol." Don't eat it, out of consideration for the conscience of the one who told you. **29** It might not be a matter of conscience for you, but it is for the other person.) For why should my freedom be limited by what someone else thinks? **30** If I can thank God for the food and enjoy it, why should I be condemned for eating it?

**31** So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. **32** Don't give offense to Jews or Gentiles<sup>[f]</sup> or the church of God. **33** I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved.

d. Greek *All things are lawful*; also in 10:23b e. Ps 24:1. f. Greek or *Greeks*.

## Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What is the significance of taking the Lord's Supper? (vs. 16; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). What about the partaking of the unleavened bread? (vs. 17)
2. How does Paul tactfully handle the sharp differences in opinion over the issue of eating pagan temple meat? (vv. 18-30) When starting a dialogue with someone about a difference in doctrine or opinion, should we seek first to *be understood* or to *understand*?
3. In making everyday decisions, as well as major life choices, what should we consider beyond the "lawfulness" of it? (vv. 23-24)
4. How do we glorify God in the most mundane things of life, like eating and drinking? (vs. 31)
- 5 According to verse 32, who are we to be particularly careful not to offend? How can we prevent from offending others? (vs. 33)