



→ **O What a Tangled Web, Lesson 3 - 1 Corinthians 8; 10:23-11:1**

8 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. 4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. 7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

NOTE: eating meat sacrificed to an idol in a temple was a means of worshipping that idol.

1 Corinthians 10:23 "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. 24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. 25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. 26 For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." 27 If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. 28 But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience— 29 I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? 30 If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

When you were growing up, what were some sacrifices your parents made on your behalf?

What are some liberties we enjoy as Christians?

How willing are you to give up these liberties for the sake of a friend, family member, co-worker if it meant them becoming a Christ follower?

What behaviors can cause other Christians to struggle in their spiritual walks? (Think of drinking, how we spend money, moral choices we make, etc.)

Read all of chapter 8 and 10:23 – 11:1

What two types of people is Paul concerned with in these passages? (see Chapter 8 and chapter 10)

What is the potential barrier mentioned in chapter 8 for some Christians?

What is the potential barrier for the non-believer in chapter 10?

What are the questions Paul encourages the Corinthians to ask when faced with a choice of behaviors? (Focus on chapter 10)

Who are we truly serving when we love our neighbor? Why does that priority matter?

Why should we think about serving Christ when we serve our neighbor? What mixed motives could we have if we just served our neighbor?

Do you glorify God in food and drink? In all things? What does that look like day to day?

How are you in glorifying God in all things?

Why does Paul use himself as an example to the church at Corinth?

How do we see the power of the gospel in 11:1? How has Christ loved you as a neighbor? What did Christ give up to serve you? (Hint: Philippians 2:1-11)

Would you be willing to not drink alcohol if it meant not being a stumbling block to someone?

Would you be willing to dress differently if it meant not being a stumbling block to someone?

Would you change your vacation plans if it meant not being a stumbling block to someone?

Why are we so resistant to live our lives to serve others?

Close in prayer asking God to empower you to love Christ by being a good neighbor.



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