



**The Week of February 21, 2021**  
**1 Corinthians 8:1-9:27**  
**Love > Liberty**  
**Conversation Guide**

**This Week's Take-Aways**

- **I engage in the missionary task wherever I am:** (Matthew 28:18-20) Through both my words and actions, I engage in gospel conversations with those around me. I take the gospel around the world by going, giving, praying and sending others.
- **I make disciples:** (2 Timothy 2:2) I am engaged in intentional relationships with other believers to encourage them in their spiritual growth.

**Intro Questions**

- All advertising is based on the idea that we have a right to what they are advertising or that we deserve it. What is it about people that makes this an effective strategy?
- What do you consider the most important rights that we have in this country?
- Our Constitution says these are inalienable rights given to us by God. What does the Bible say?

## To Eat or Not To Eat

- Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NLT)

*Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that “we all have knowledge” about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn’t really know very much. But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes. So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. But for us, There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live.*

*However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. It’s true that we can’t win God’s approval by what we eat. We don’t lose anything if we don’t eat it, and we don’t gain anything if we do. But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble. For if others see you—with your “superior knowledge”—eating in the temple of an idol, won’t they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed. And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ. So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don’t want to cause another believer to stumble.*

- What was the subject up for debate in this passage?
- There were two sides to this argument within the Corinthian church. Can you summarize them?
- What was Paul’s advice?
- What were some examples of current issues that Pastor David gave that this advice can apply to? Can you think of others?
- In the church there are many levels of maturity among believers. What attitude should we have toward those less mature than us?

- Read 1 Corinthians 9:4-7, 14-15

*Don't we have the right to live in your homes and share your meals? Don't we have the right to bring a believing wife with us as the other apostles and the Lord's brothers do, and as Peter does? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have to work to support ourselves? What soldier has to pay his own expenses? What farmer plants a vineyard and doesn't have the right to eat some of its fruit? What shepherd cares for a flock of sheep and isn't allowed to drink some of the milk?*

*... the Lord ordered that those who preach the Good News should be supported by those who benefit from it. Yet I have never used any of these rights. And I am not writing this to suggest that I want to start now. In fact, I would rather die than lose my right to boast about preaching without charge.*

- What right is Paul arguing he has in this passage?
- Does Paul flaunt or surrender this right? Why did he make this choice?
- What did Pastor David mean by "Love is greater than liberty?"

- Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

*Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.*

- What groups of people do we encounter today that we have to get out of our comfort zones to connect with?
- As we work to "become all things to all people" what guardrail does Paul give us? Where do we draw the line?
- Fill in Pastor David's quote from the message:
  - "I'm not going to get hung up on my \_\_\_\_\_. I'm going to get hung up on \_\_\_\_\_ others."
  - What was Paul's ultimate goal?

## Next Steps

- When making decisions this week ask yourself “What’s the best thing to do for the sake of the gospel?”
- In what ways can you humble yourself in order to serve and love your brothers and sisters?
- What rights have you been pridefully holding on to that may be causing others to stumble?
- From Pastor David:

*And as an American, you not only have the liberty, you have the means. You have the money. You have the freedom of movement. You have the protection of the state to do an awful lot of things. And that is all great.*

*But as a Christian, I’m going to surrender those rights for the sake of the gospel. I’m willing to surrender my rights to encourage others toward Christ. I’m going to surrender my rights to deliver the gospel to those who need to hear it.*

- Visit the Celebration app and download your Love > Liberty Wallpaper to your phone for a daily reminder.