



**The Week of February 28, 2021**  
**1 Corinthians 10**  
**A Thin Line Between Liberty & Idolatry**  
**Conversation Guide**

**This Week's Take-Aways**

- **Goodness:** (Galatians 6:9-10) I will seek to do good to others even at great cost to myself.
- **I show great compassion:** (Psalm 82:3-4) I actively show my caring for those who are vulnerable in real and tangible ways.

**Intro Questions**

- Can you complete these jingles?
  - "The best part of \_\_\_\_\_ is Folgers in your cup."
  - "Where's the \_\_\_\_\_?"
  - "O, O, O \_\_\_\_\_ Auto Parts."
  - "Ace is the place with the \_\_\_\_\_."
- What do you obsess about? A TV show, a band, a hobby?
- As a nation, what are some things that capture our attention and become obsessions?

## A Fine Line Between Liberty & Idolatry

- Read 1 Corinthians 10:14-15 (NLT)

*So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols. You are reasonable people. Decide for yourselves if what I am saying is true.*

- What did idolatry mean to the Corinthian church?
- What does idolatry mean today?
- Have there been times in your life that you realized there was something you were obsessing over that was pulling your attention from God?
- What does Paul's instruction to flee tell us about the dangerous nature of idols?

- Read Leviticus 3:1-5 & Leviticus 7:31-34 (NLT)

*If you present an animal from the herd as a peace offering to the Lord, it may be a male or a female, but it must have no defects. Lay your hand on the animal's head, and slaughter it at the entrance of the Tabernacle. Then Aaron's sons, the priests, will splatter its blood against all sides of the altar. The priest must present part of this peace offering as a special gift to the Lord. This includes all the fat around the internal organs, the two kidneys and the fat around them near the loins, and the long lobe of the liver. These must be removed with the kidneys, and Aaron's sons will burn them on top of the burnt offering on the wood burning on the altar. It is a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.*

*Then the priest will burn the fat on the altar, but the breast will belong to Aaron and his descendants. Give the right thigh of your peace offering to the priest as a gift.*

- How were the Israelites united by giving sacrifices to God and celebrating with a meal?
- Eating a peace offering before the Lord was an act of worship. Is there an equivalent to this in the New Testament church?

- Read 1 Corinthians 10:16-18 (NLT)

*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? And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body. Think about the people of Israel. Weren't they united by eating the sacrifices at the altar?*

- The Lord's Supper is an act of worship. How does the Corinthian believers' denigration of it show their idolatry?

- Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 (NLT)

*You say, "I am allowed to do anything" —but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is beneficial. Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.*

- How does something that was meant to be good turn into an idol in our lives that masters us?
- What are some modern "good things" that have can become idols in our lives?

- Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 (NLT)

*So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Don't give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God. 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. And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.*

- How is it possible to do everything conscience of the presence of God?

- Pastor David said:

*"When God gives us good things, he never intended them to become our gods. Good things make lousy gods. Because idols, no matter how good they are, always disappoint. Idols always interfere. They suck down your time, your money, your energy, then they let you down."*

- Name things that have started as good thing that then became idols that plague us?

## Next Steps

- Read 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT)

*Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you ; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.*

- What do you talk about? What are your most passionate conversations about?
  - Check your emotions. What has the power to change your moods?
  - Where do you spend your money?
  - How do you spend your time? Is it an activity? A person/relationship?
  - How does your family spend their time?
  - This week, go to a friend that knows you well and ask them if they see something you are overly focused on.
  - “If you don’t pull down your idols, your idols will pull you down.” Commit yourself to re-prioritizing and making God first in your life and your family’s.
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)

*The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*