

1 CORINTHIANS 10:14–11:1, HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS

10¹⁴Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

¹⁸Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? ¹⁹Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. ²²Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

²³"Everything is permissible"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

²⁵Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."^[a]

²⁷If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸But if anyone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake— ²⁹the other man's conscience, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience? ³⁰If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

³¹So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³²Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— ³³even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

11¹Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

^[a] Psalm 24:1

Discussion Questions (Choose a manageable number to discuss)

1. A discussion of idol feasts seems far removed from our concerns today. But what general principle can we apply from this passage (see 11:1) to contemporary situations?
2. How (10:33b) did Paul work at imitating Christ at Corinth and elsewhere?
3. What are some matters of central significance about which we must remain firm? Read 10:14–22 for an example of this principle being applied?
4. When (10:23–25) am I free to enjoy whatever God has provided?
When should I voluntarily curtail my rights or freedom for the glory of God?
5. What are some secondary issues (10:26–33a) on which Christians should give way if there is a danger of injuring another Christian or of damaging the unity of the church?
6. Pastor Josh Moody told any visitors to our church services that they were seated in "a room full of lifeguards." Was he right? Do we function that way, or do we tend to ignore those around us who are drowning?
How much effort are we investing in rescuing them?
7. Conclude with a time of prayer, asking God to make you intentional about pointing people "out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).