



**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Barry Hosford

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Instead of passing judgment on one another, Paul encouraged us to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Jesus, thank You for saving me. Forgive me for the times I get distracted by lesser issues and allow division to occur between myself and other believers. Help me to bring unity through focusing on You

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification

(Rom 14:19 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 23, 2022)

Series: Faith that Pleases God

UNIT 1: Profiles in Faith

NEXT WEEK

**The Faith of Ruth
(Ruth 1:6-18, 22)**

Freedom to Edify 1 Cor 10:23-11:1

Lesson Background and Introduction

Reports had come to Paul regarding needed correctives and clarifications in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:11; 7:1). In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul had introduced the difficult issue (for that time) of eating meat that had been offered on pagan altars to idols. Meat that was left over from a pagan sacrifice, initiated by a worshipper who had brought the sacrificial animal, was at the disposal of the officiating priests. What they couldn't eat personally they would sell in the marketplace. Some Christians wondered about the propriety of buying such meat. In doing so, were they were participating in pagan worship and thus compromising their witness for Christ? In this regard, Paul emphasizes two points in 1 Corinthians 8. The first is the awareness that an idol is "nothing" (8:4); therefore those who are mature in knowledge on this point were free to eat such meat. Paul's second point counterbalances the first: "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak" (8:9). This stresses the importance of demonstrating concern for those having a weak conscience. Such a person might witness a fellow believer eating meat that had been offered to idols and thereby be drawn back into idolatry. Paul had more to say on this issue, and that is today's text.

A certain Christian publication featured a series of tributes to a Christian leader who had gone to be with the Lord. That this man's life and ministry had an impact on countless numbers of people was clear from the words written about him. Among the tributes included was one statement that caught my attention: "He made us better." To make others better is part of what it means to edify others, the key word in our lesson title. Paul's primary concern in our lesson text is making the edification of others a priority within the body of Christ. Do we have Christian freedom to attend movies that are rated other than "G"? Yes, indeed. But how will doing so affect the openness to receive the gospel of those who see us at such movies? This is, of course, an all-the-time challenge. It involves our lives out in the public arena, which must be lived with a sense of duty both to glorify God and as a witness to others (believers and unbelievers). It involves the kind of freedom that is anchored in personal holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16), without legalism or hypocrisy (Matthew 23:16-26). It involves foregoing our "rights," as Paul did (1 Corinthians 8:9; 9:15, 18), for the good of others. Resolve to be like the one above who "made us better" as if eternal destinies are at stake, because they are! As we ponder these things in our hearts, may it be said of us as Paul said of himself near the close of his life, "I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10).

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Edify that Leads to Freedom (1 Cor 10:23-30)

Freedom to make godly decisions (23)

- Decisions that are beneficial (1 Cor 6:12)
- Decisions that are for mutual edification (Rom 14:19)
- Decisions that comfort and edify (1 Thess 5:11)
- Decisions that are pure (Titus 1:15)

Freedom that leads to helping others (24)

- Helping others who are weak (Rom 15:1-2)
- Helping others by sharing their suffering (Heb 13:1-3)
- Helping others who have wandered from the truth (James 5:19-20)
- Helping others through restoration (1 John 5:16)

Freedom from judging others (25-27)

- Freedom because everyone will be judged by God (Rom 14:10)
- Freedom because there is an appointed time for judgment (1 Cor 4:5)
- Freedom because everyone has stumbled (James 3:2)
- Freedom because there is only one Judge (James 4:12)

Freedom from being a stumbling block (28-29)

- Freedom by not standing in the way of others (Matt 23:13)
- Freedom by not misusing our freedom (1 Cor. 8:9)
- Freedom by loving our brothers and sisters (1 John 2:10)
- Freedom by not causing others to sin (Matt 18:6)

Freedom that leads to thankfulness (30)

- Thanksgiving for financial freedom (2 Cor 9:10-11)
- Thanksgiving for receiving the victory through Jesus (1 Cor 15:56-57)
- Thanksgiving for being in the triumphal procession through Jesus (2 Cor 2:14)
- Thanksgiving for freedom in all things (1 Thess 5:18)

Edify as a Responsibility (1 Cor 10:31-11:1)

Responsibility to glorify God (31)

- Glorify God through unity (Rom 15:5-6)
- Glorify God through living a godly life (1 Peter 2:12)
- Glorify God through doing good works (Matt 5:16)
- Glorify God in our bodies (1 Cor 6:20)
- Glorify God through suffering for Christ (1 Peter 4:16)

Responsibility to not be partial (32-33)

- No partiality because God will rebuke (Job 13:10)
- No partiality through thinking more highly of others (Luke 18:11-14)
- No partiality because Christians are one in Jesus (Gal 3:27-28)
- No partiality because God has no distinction between Christians (Rom 10:12)
- No partiality because there is no partiality with God (Rom 2:11)

Responsibility to imitate and follow Jesus (31)

- Following Jesus must become our first priority (Matt 8:22)
- Following Jesus is a requirement for being a Christian (Matt 10:38)
- Following Jesus means denying oneself (Matt 16:24)
- Following Jesus by serving Him (John 12:26)