



1 Corinthians

FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

1 Corinthians 8-10

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PRINCIPLE TO CONSIDER

Christians are both free and responsible. We can experience and express our freedom in Christ. However, we also must give consideration to our responsibilities as mature Christians regarding our witness to unbelievers and our love for other believers.

CONTEXT IN CORINTH

Idolatry was at the heart of Paul's concern.

PARTICULAR ISSUES

1. Could Christians attend festivals at pagan temples and eat the food sacrificed to pagan gods?
2. Could Christians eat meat sold at Corinthian markets?
3. Could Christians accept dinner invitations from pagan neighbors? Could they eat the meat served in the homes of pagans?

STRUCTURE OF PAUL'S ANSWERS

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 --- the problem and two principles

1 Corinthians 9:1-18 --- freedom and love

1 Corinthians 9:19-27 --- goal is to lead people to Christ

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 --- example from Old Testament

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 --- flee idolatry

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 --- summary: freedom and responsibility

GUIDING CONSIDERATIONS

1. We must be mature in our faith.
2. We are called to be salt and light.
3. We must be thoughtful, authentic, Spirit-led, and creative as we engage a non-Christian society as Christians.