

SS Q3 - 1 & 2 Corinthians

Lesson #5

All to the Glory of God



“Therefore, whether you eat or
eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do, do all to the glory of God.”
God.”

—*1 Corinthians 10:31, NKJV*

What Does Idolatry Look Like?

We may imagine a statue, a temple, or someone bowing bowing before stone.

But Paul begins with something ordinary:

**Food. A dinner invitation. A Christian who knows he is right.
Another Christian whose conscience may be wounded.**

The issue was not merely what they ate.

The deeper issue was *who* occupied
the center of their lives.

The question behind food was worship.

“Therefore, my beloved,
flee from idolatry.”

—*1 Corinthians 10:14, NKJV*

Knowledge Must Be Controlled by Love

Some Corinthians knew idols were not real gods.
Technically, they were correct.

But being correct is not the same as being Christlike.

“Knowledge puffs up,
but love edifies.”

—*1 Corinthians 8:1, NKJV*

“We know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.”

—*1 Corinthians 8:4, NKJV*

The Weak Brother

Some believers had only recently left paganism.

Their consciences were still affected by former worship.

They might conclude that Christianity and idolatry were compatible.

“And because of your knowledge
shall the weak brother perish, for
whom Christ died?”

—*1 Corinthians 8:11, NKJV*

Notice how Paul measures another person's value:

Christ died for that person.

The value of a conscience is measured at the cross.

A Better Question

Not merely: Am I allowed to do this?

But also: What will my decision do to the person Christ died to save?

Knowledge without love is not Christian maturity.

The Freedom to Surrender Our Rights

In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul presents himself as an example.
He had rights as an apostle.

**Yet in Corinth, he surrendered some rights so nothing
would hinder the gospel.**

“Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.”

—*1 Corinthians 9:12, NKJV*

Freedom and Love Ask Different Questions

Christian freedom asks: What am I permitted to do?

Christian love asks: What am I willing to surrender?

The gospel gives us a new reason to use freedom in love.

Rights Laid Down for Mission

There are times when we may have the right to speak—but choose silence.

We may deserve recognition—but allow someone else to be honored.

We may prefer one thing—but surrender it for unity and mission.

Paul could lay down his rights because

Christ first laid down His life.

Freedom becomes beautiful when love directs it.

Spiritual Privilege Is Not Immunity

Israel followed the cloud.

They passed through the sea.

They ate bread from heaven and drank water supplied by God.

Yet miracles did not prevent idolatry.

“But with most of them God
was not well pleased.”

—*1 Corinthians 10:5, NKJV*

Privileges Do Not Replace Surrender

Baptism does not make apostasy impossible.

Church membership does not replace daily surrender.

Knowing truth does not automatically mean truth controls the life.

“Let him who thinks he
stands take heed lest he
fall.”

—*1 Corinthians 10:12, NKJV*

The person in greatest danger may be

the person most confident that he
is not in danger.

Spiritual confidence must never become self-confidence.

“God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.”

—*1 Corinthians 10:13, NKJV*

Hope in Temptation

Victory rests not in our self-confidence.

Victory rests in God's faithfulness.

God provides a way of escape—but we must take it.

Flee From Idolatry

Paul does not say, “Manage idolatry.”

He does not ask how close we can stand to it.

He says: Flee.

Modern Idols

Money. Comfort. Romantic love. Success. Appetite.

Political ideology. Ministry. Reputation.

Even theological knowledge can become an idol.

A simple definition:

A good thing becomes an idol
when it becomes the ruling thing.

The issue is not the object alone, but the devotion it receives.

How Do We Know?

We cannot imagine being happy without it.

We are willing to disobey God to keep it.

We sacrifice people for it.

It controls our decisions and receives God's place.

“The human heart can turn love,
money, success, or power into
counterfeit gods.”

—*Timothy Keller, Counterfeit Gods*

“Idolatry includes self-serving,
love of ease, and the gratification
of appetite and passion.”

—*Ellen G. White, The Acts of the Apostles, 316–17*

Perhaps the Deepest Idol Is Self

My knowledge.

My freedom.

My preference.

My comfort.

My glory.

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

—*1 Corinthians 10:31, NKJV*

Whatever You Do

This verse is larger than diet.

Every part of life belongs to God.

**Eating, working, studying, spending, speaking, serving,
and resting can all become acts of worship.**

To glorify God means

allowing His character to become
visible through our choices.

The question is not only what I do, but whose character I display.

Before Making a Decision

Is it helpful?

Does it build others up?

Does it seek another person's good?

Will it advance or hinder the gospel?

Can I do it for the glory of God?

The issue was never merely food.

The issue was worship.

Knowledge must bow to love. Freedom must bow to mission.
Appetite must bow to Christ. Self must bow to God.

Final question:

Whose glory is my life
displaying?

May the answer be Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. When can being “right” hurt another person instead of helping them?
2. What good thing in your life could easily become more important than God?
3. What is one everyday choice you can make this week for God’s glory?