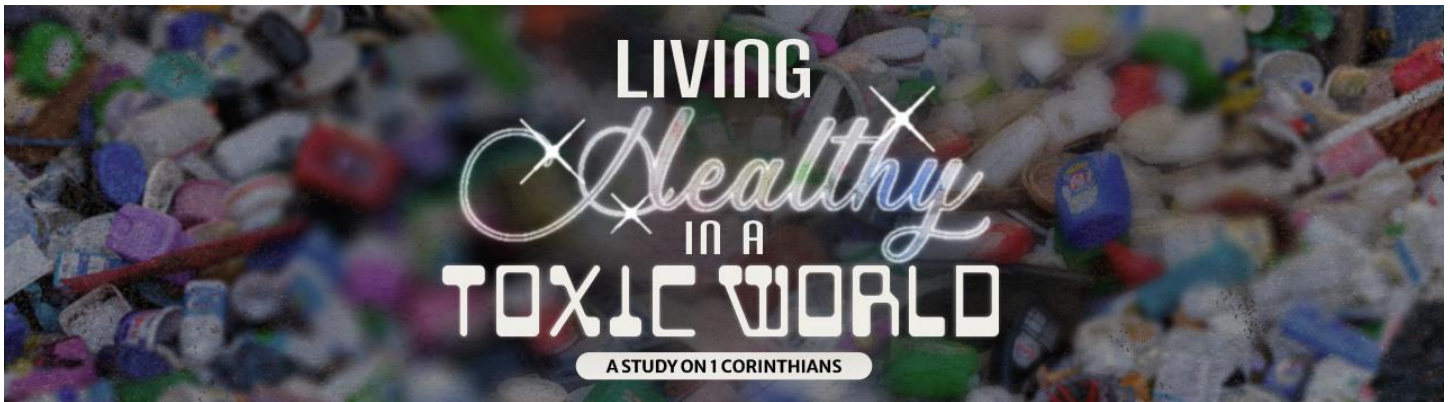




STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Teaching: *I have My Rights*

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 8-10

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 12:1-1

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:21-31

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Friday: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What is your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

In 1 Corinthians 8–10, Paul teaches that Christian freedom is not primarily about knowing our rights, but about using our freedom to love others, advance the mission of the gospel, and glorify God. The Corinthians wanted clear rules about eating food sacrificed to idols, but Paul gave them a deeper principle: just because we have the right to do something does not mean it is the most loving or beneficial choice. Love is more important than being right, mission is more important than personal rights, and God's glory is more important than individual preferences. Following the example of Jesus, who willingly laid down His rights for our salvation, mature believers ask not, "What am I allowed to do?" but, "What will help others move closer to Jesus and bring glory to God?" Christian freedom is ultimately not about getting our own way, but about serving others in love and pointing people to Christ.

See Digging Deeper if you would like to read helpful historical background to understand these 3 chapters.

Questions: Icebreaker: What is one small thing you are VERY particular about having your own way? 😊

1. Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 together as a group. What do you notice about the difference between knowledge and love in verses 1–3? What does Paul mean when he says that "knowledge puffs up, while love builds up"?
2. Are there areas where you may be more concerned with being *right* than with how your words or actions affect someone else?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 8:7-13. What does Paul mean by being a "stumbling block" to another believer?
4. Chapters 8 and 10 talk about food sacrificed to an idol. In between these chapters, Paul talks about his "rights" as an apostle. Read 1 Corinthians 9:15-23. Look closely at verse 23. What seems to be Paul's ultimate priority? How does this challenge the way we normally think about our "rights" and "freedoms"?

CEDAR VALLEY

Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For

the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

5. Now read 1 Corinthians 10:25-33. What might it look like to voluntarily limit your freedom because someone else matters more than your preference?
6. Paul also says he tries to please everyone in many ways so that they may be saved. How does that connect to the larger message of chapters 8–10?
7. Challenge for the week: Before making a decision this week, pause and ask: “What would help someone move closer to Jesus?”

DIGGING DEEPER | What do you think of when you hear the word “worship”? Maybe you think songs of praise at the beginning of the church service. But in the ancient world, “worship” was shown by making sacrifices at a temple. 1 Corinthians 8-10 is all about the Corinthians participation in idol worship through food sacrificed to idols. Jewish people stayed away from idolatry and food sacrificed to idols. But for Greeks, food sacrificed to deities was a part of normal daily life. They would have been invited to parties and social gatherings regularly that had meat sacrificed to other gods. How do Greeks who converted to Christianity navigate this issue?

Here is some helpful information for Dr. Lucy Peppiatt from WTC Theological college:

Key Takeaways from 1 Corinthians 8-10

- Paul addresses two different situations of “strong” and “weak” followers of Jesus in Rome and Corinth. In Romans, the debate is over keeping Jewish festivals and food laws. In Corinth, the question is regarding meat sacrificed to another god.
- Social, civic, and religious gatherings are intertwined in Corinthian culture.
- Paul teaches that followers of Jesus are free to follow their conscience in debatable matters (like if the food was purchased in the marketplace and you don't know if it was sacrificed to an idol, then go ahead and eat it). However, love for our siblings should guide our decision.

Participation in the Body | 1 Corinthians 8, 10, and 11:17-24 are all connected by the theme of what we're participating in and why, and the effect that has on those around us. Koinonia (Greek: κοινωνία —fellowship or participation) is the key concept.

Chapter 8 begins with “Now concerning ...”, so we know this is something they have raised with Paul in their letter: What do Christians do about food sacrificed to idols?

Background | In 1 Corinthians, we are dealing with the question of meat that has been sacrificed as an offering to a god in a ceremony to honor the god (Greek: thusia/ θυσία). In these ceremonies, the animal would be killed, and some would be burned, some eaten, some put on a table for the god themselves, or some sold at the meat market.

These ceremonies happened at parties and feasts to which sometimes people would be invited by the god themselves! Sarapis and Isis were two gods who would have been worshiped in Corinth.

Gatherings | It's also important for us to note that the social, civic, and religious gatherings were all intertwined. Business, networking, religious, and political agendas were all rolled into one, and you couldn't tease them apart. The important feasts or parties were where you wanted to be seen, where you would make business deals and friends, gain patrons, or honor patrons. It would be a huge loss of face and of opportunity for Christians not to be there. However, to go along meant participating in a pagan ceremony, and on occasions there would be flagrant sexual immorality.

What did people themselves think they were doing when they went to these ceremonies in relation to the god? We are not sure, but here are some options.

- Sacramental: Taking part in the deity.
- Communal: Sharing a meal with the deity.
- Social: Eating a meal before the deity (See Willis, Idol Meat in Corinth, 18-20)

These are about different levels of participation.