

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 March 2018..... 1Cor 1-3United in Christ
- 2) 11 March..... 1Cor 4-6 Glorifying God
- 3) 18 March..... 1Cor 7Keeping Commitments
- 4) 25 March..... 1Cor 8-10**Influencing for Christ**
- 5) 01 April..... 1Cor 15-16 Assurance of the Resurrection
- 6) 08 April..... 1Cor 11Remembering the Sacrifice
- 7) 15 April..... 1Cor 12 & 14 Serving God's People
- 8) 22 April..... 1Cor 13 Understanding Love
- 9) 29 April..... 2Cor 1-2 Enjoying God's Comfort
- 10) 06 May..... 2Cor 3-4 Displaying the Gospel
- 11) 13 May..... 2Cor 5-7 Becoming New
- 12) 20 May..... 2Cor 7-9 Giving Faithfully
- 13) 27 May..... 2Cor 10-13 Finding Strength

INTRODUCTION

- 1Corinthians chapters 5, 6, & 7 dealt with sexual immorality, but sins of the flesh are actually quite easy to fix – STOP IT!
- Paul spent more time on issues regarding church Unity and Liberty than on sexual immorality – so Unity & Liberty must be more important

Passage	Comments
1Cor 8:1-13	<p>More on the Liberty we have in Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. What is Paul saying here? <input type="checkbox"/> Watch out for know-it-alls? <input type="checkbox"/> Sound doctrine doesn't matter? <input type="checkbox"/> We just need to be lovey-dovey to everyone? ♦ Consider this. Context here is false knowledge or wrong motives (e.g., Bible-thumping people). We must always speak the truth in love and be gentle to all when confronting tough issues & tough people. BUT that does not mean there isn't a time to take tough measures to stand up and challenge sin in the camp and seek removal of unrepentant behavior • vv4-11. Offending others with our liberty, however, needs some additional explaining and clarification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Principle of Liberty in Christ. The most mature believers consider the conscience of weaker ones • v12-13. We sin against Christ when we cause His sheep to stumble, even unintentionally. Examples? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking a beer? <input type="checkbox"/> Watching Big Bang Theory? <input type="checkbox"/> Missing church to play golf? <input type="checkbox"/> Others? ♦ Principle of Self-Denial for the sake of others. BUT, Paul had Timothy circumcised so as not to offend some, but he did not have Titus circumcised to appease others.....Act 16:1-5; Gal 2:3-5
9:1-18	<p>Paul was an Apostle – Especially to the Corinthians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul defends his ApostleshipWHY? • Apostles have the right to marry. This defeats the argument by Catholics who avert their church clergy from marrying (priests, nuns, bishops, cardinals, etc.) • vv11-14. We should strive to take care of those who take care of us spiritually. How much is adequate compensation for those in ministry? Should we pay them below, on par, or above the median income?
Apostolic Selection Process	<p>What Does It Take to Be Identified as an Apostle?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifically chosen and taught by Jesus Christ Acts 1:21; Gal 1:12 • A witness to His Resurrection Acts 1:22; 1 Cor 9:1 • Able to give the Holy Spirit Acts 8:14, 18; 10:44; 19:6 • Specifically called by Jesus Christ Luke 6:13; 1Cor 1:1; Gal 1:15 • Able to work the "Signs of an Apostle" Acts 5:12, 15, 16; 19:12; Rom 15:19; 2Cor 12:12 • Able to proclaim and establish doctrine John 17:20; Eph 3:5; 2Peter 3:2, 16; Jude 17

Passage	Comments
9:19-27	<p>Paul's use of Liberty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv19-22. Paul became a "slave to all" so that he may save some How do we do this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. "Do as the Romans do" from a cultural perspective where it does not violate the conscience or God's direct commands ♦ Example. In Europe it is culturally acceptable for Protestant Christians to drink beer & wine, but in America it is more of a stumbling block for many ♦ Principle to Live by: Know Your Audience • vv24-27. Run to Win How do we do this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. The Christian walk is a disciplined lifestyle. It takes thoughtful effort to think before we speak, to watch what we think; to control where our eyes roam; to avoid certain foods, drinks, & shows; and even to temper our speed on the highways.
10:1-33	<p>More issues with our Liberty in Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-11. The Jews that lived thru the Exodus were our examples of how NOT to behave. Like the Corinthians, they had it all...God worked His power among them, but they failed to live like kids of the King. Therefore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v6. Do not lust after evil things ♦ v7. Do not be idolaters ♦ v8. Avoid sexual immorality ♦ v9. Do not toy with God. Take your faith seriously. ♦ v10. Do not complain/murmur against God • v13. No excuse for sinning – Escape routes exist • v23. Back to square one → All things are lawful – BUT not all things are permissible or expedient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Example. We may be able to drink & eat things others can't, but we must consider offending them • v31. Principle of doing all things for God's glory and everything else will fall into its proper place • vv24, 33. Principle of winning people to Christ by not seeking our rights, but seeking welfare of others

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- We may have to consider the weaker consciences of others before we exercise some of our liberties, but we don't need to walk around on egg shells trying not to offend people. There are times some offended people just need to put their big-boy pants on, and there are other times we just need to apologize for our insensitivity to the weaker ones.

NEXT WEEK: 1Cor 15-16. Easter's significance.



"Christian Liberty is the freedom from sin, not the freedom to sin" - A.W. Tozer