

## **Meat**

1 Corinthians 8:1 – 11:1

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### The Problem:

Many believers in Corinth had an inflated view of themselves. The freedom they experienced in Christ led them to think, "I can do anything I want." One practice that had become an issue was believers eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols. Since idols represent false gods, gods that don't exist, there was really nothing wrong with eating the meat. But this action could be misconstrued as idol worship. Believers whose faith was already frail were falling away because of it.

### Paul's Response:

Just because you're allowed to do something doesn't mean you should. There are many spiritual beings in the heavenly realm, but there is only one God, the Father, for whom we live. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom we live. But some immature believers haven't yet grasped this concept.

As a spiritual leader among you I deserved to be paid – at the very least to be given food and lodging. But the whole time I was with you I did manual labor to earn my own keep. I prefer it that way! I wouldn't want someone to see me accepting payment for sharing the good news and then think, "Oh, I see. He's just in it for the money!"

If you think you're standing strong in your faith, be careful you don't fall. Living in Corinth you face a wide variety of temptations every day. But they're no different than the temptations everyone else faces. And God is faithful, not allowing you to be tempted beyond what you can bear, and always providing a way out so you can endure it.

In love you should refrain from any activity, even a perfectly legitimate one, that might cause a weaker believer to sin.