



## **Studying 1 Corinthians Together**

### **Chapter 8 Study Guide**

This guide is designed to help you slow down, meditate on God's Word,  
and listen to the Holy Spirit.

Feel free to move through this study guide at your own pace. Be sure to  
write down your own insights and questions as they arise. Pay attention  
to how God meets you in His Word.

If you would like to share what you are discovering, return to the article  
connected with this week's study and join the conversation in the  
comments. Your reflections may encourage someone else.

## **How to Use This Guide:**

Before you begin, take time to find a quiet spot as free of distractions as possible. Turn off all notifications on your computer, silence your phone, and open the Word of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to come and speak to you.

Each day focuses on a different portion of the chapter for this week's study. It begins with a series of questions to help you dig deeper for the meaning of the verses for that day. Take time to really digest them and then physically write your answer to each question. Physically writing the answers slows you down and allows God to actively engage with you and increase your understanding. He may remind you of related passages, connect it to other concepts in your mind, or speak directly into your life as you write.

If your study raises questions not listed, write them down and ask the Holy Spirit to help you find the answers. You may not receive answers immediately, and that's very normal. God will answer your questions in His own time and way. Return to your questions as the Lord brings insight and write the answers He gives you.

You may choose to write your answers in a spiral-bound or loose-leaf notebook rather than in the space provided here. Or you could type them into your own document on your computer. Whatever works best for you.

Following the questions is an opportunity to put what you learned into your own words through paraphrasing the verses being studied. Remember, this is not a translation and it's not for publication, so write it in a way that communicates the message you have captured.

Each study closes with a prayer. Please use this as a springboard for your own prayer.

You are welcome to share insights, questions, or reflections on the article page on my website to engage with fellow Christians on this journey. Or you may send me a private email at the address in the footer.

I'm looking forward to learning and growing with you.

Day One: \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 8:1-3: Knowledge vs. Love*

**Questions:**

1. Why does Paul begin this discussion about food offered to idols by talking about knowledge and love?

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2. How can a Christian be right about something and still be wrong in how they use that knowledge?

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3. To what extent should concern for another person's relationship with God influence my decisions?

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**Paraphrase It:**

Try to express the message as you understand it. Don't worry about perfect wording—focus on the message.

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### **Application:**

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Dear Jesus and God the Father,

I am so thankful that above all else, You are a loving God. Slow to anger and so willing to forgive our iniquity, rebellion, and sin. Thank You that Your mercies are new every morning. That Your compassion never fails. Thank You that You are aware of how weak and frail we are, that we are just dust that You created in Your image.

If anyone could be puffed up with knowledge and disdainful of us here on earth who struggle to understand You and Your ways with our limited capacity, it would be You. But instead, You were willing to leave heaven, where everything is perfect harmony and love is supreme, and come to this earth to live among us. And even then, You chose to come as an illegitimate, poor outsider.

You showed extreme patience and forbearance with Your disciples who followed You everywhere and yet were so slow to understand what you were trying to teach them. Their understanding of Your mission was the complete opposite of what You came to do. And yet, You loved them and gently showed them the truth. Instead of condemning or being sarcastic, You prayed for them. You sought to teach them in ways that would draw them to You, not drive them away.

Lord, I pray that You will help me grow to be like You. Teach me to love others the way You love them. Teach me how to draw others to You by being a loving and lovable person.

Day Two: \_\_\_\_\_  
*1 Corinthians 8:4-6: The Truth About Idols*

**Questions:**

1. Why was idol worship condemned? Read Exodus 20:3-5; Exodus 34:12-17; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 45:5; Revelation 2:14

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2. Were there spiritual powers behind idols according to the Bible? Read Deuteronomy 32:16-17; Psalm 106:36-37; 1 Corinthians 10:19-20

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3. How could a person in Paul's time know whether they were eating meat that had been offered to an idol? Read 1 Corinthians 8:10; 1 Corinthians 10:25; 1 Corinthians 10:28

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4. Why did Paul say eating meat offered to idols was not automatically sinful?

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**Paraphrase It:**

How did you understand the message Paul is writing? Put it in your words.

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3. How can I respond to people who are still caught in these deceptions in a way that is loving and draws them to Christ?

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**Prayer:**

Dear Jesus,

Thank You that You are supremely powerful. That there is no other God in the universe. Thank You for giving me the command to worship You and You alone. I am so prone to get distracted, to get confused, to believe only what I can see and touch. Thank You for the Bible that reveals the truth about You to me. Help me understand it more each day and learn to love You and the truth with all my heart, mind, soul and strength.

Thank You that You are so big, so awesome, so glorious that nothing in heaven or on earth could ever represent You.

Help me never forget that the devil and his minions are ever on the prowl seeking to deceive me, distract me, harass me, and defeat me. Reveal to me anything that I possess, any beliefs that I hold, any things that I watch, read, or listen to that are giving the devil the right and the power to work in my life, to derail my relationship with You.

Lord, today, I submit my life to You. I choose to resist the devil. Make him flee from me. And cause me to flee from temptation. Without You, I can do nothing. So fill me today with Your Holy Spirit, teach me to hear Your voice, and to be aware that You are with me all through the day, no matter what I am doing.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day Three: \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 8:7-13: Christian Freedom and Responsibility*

**Questions:**

1. Paul says whether we eat meat or not does not make us more acceptable to God. If that is true, why would he advise some believers not to eat it?

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2. What is more important to Paul in this passage: exercising his personal freedom or protecting another believer's faith? Why?

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3. How can a Christian use a God-given freedom in a way that harms another person's relationship with Christ?

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4. What examples do we see in Jesus' life of voluntarily giving up His rights, comfort, or privileges for the good of others?

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### Paraphrase It:

Now write the message in your own words on the lines below. Remember, it's not for publication.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

### Application:

1. Is there an area where I am more concerned about being right than helping another person grow closer to Christ?

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2. How can I tell when limiting my freedom is an act of love versus allowing someone else to control my choices?

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3. Paul says he would rather never eat meat again than cause a fellow believer to stumble. What is one freedom, preference, habit, or personal right I would be willing to set aside out of love for someone else?
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**Prayer:**

Dear Jesus,

I don't ever want to be responsible for driving someone away from You because of my unloving actions. You never reject me when I am in error. You always seek to draw me to You and lovingly show me where I am wrong. Help me reflect that character trait in my own life.

In truth, I think my ideas of love are so distorted that I need to feed on the truth of the love You revealed in Your life daily so that, like yeast, it can begin to change my nature. It is so much easier to be critical than to be loving. To be judgmental rather than seeking to support and draw a person to You.

Forgive me for my lack of genuine love for others. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and, not only teach me how to love, but empower me to love. Make me brave to love. Courageous to love. And give me discernment to know when what I think is love, is really just being passive and fearful. Help me discern when correction is needed and show me how to do it with love and not condemnation.

Thank you that You are love. Thank You that love originates with You. Thank You that You loved me more than Your own life. Thank You for loving me more than Your safety. Thank You for loving me more than Your comfort. Thank You for loving me enough to plan for me before You created this world. Thank You that You have never left me, never forsaken me, and that You work tirelessly to keep me in a relationship with You.

Never let me forget Your love for me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.