

Sermon Notes

The Right to Party?
1 Cor. 8:1 - 13

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January 21, 2018

What are my rights? Vs. What is right?
Can I? vs. Should I?

Corinthian Questions

1. Can I go to parties held at the idol temples?
2. Can I share a meal at someone's home if the meat has come from an idol temple?
3. Can I buy meat that has come from an idol temple?

Contextual Considerations

Why do they care so much about going to parties?
religious, social, & economic reasons
Why would they want to buy idol meat?

Principles for Godly Decision Making in Complex Situations

Let your decisions be guided by a love for God and others. (v.1-3)

Let your decisions be guided by Biblical truth. (v.4 – 6)

Make decisions that bring yourself and others nearer to God. (v.7 – 13)

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

As always feel free to tweak, skip, or add questions to focus on areas you think most relevant to your group.

1. What is your favorite type of meat? Feel free to include preferred seasonings/ sauces as well.
2. What do we mean today when we label something a right?
3. What are the different motivations for “Can I?” vs. “Should I?” decision making?
4. We aren't really asking the same morally complex questions that the Corinthians were, how might you modify the questions to fit our current context?
5. What are the dangers of knowledge without love? Love without knowledge?
6. What do you find helpful about the decision making principles pulled from the text?
7. Some decisions are easy and fairly black and white, others can get very gray, how comfortable are you living in those gray areas?
8. What are the purposes of parties in our culture today? Under what circumstances should we disengage from a party environment today?

Case Studies: (These are supposed to be hard)

A friend from work invites you to attend a religious celebration and meal at their Hindu Temple, do you attend?

Your son or daughter is invited to a party with school friends. They are honest and tell you there will be drinking there, but they want to go and build relationships with an eye toward sharing the gospel. Do you let them go?