

1 Corinthians

Wisdom & Unity

Meeting the demands of
Christian life and living



Rev. Larrin Robertson
Pastor, WORD For Life Church Ministries



Starting where
you are:

Any questions?





Overview of 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1

Wisdom for a Balanced Life

[Review]

From 8:1-11:1, the primary concern is eating meat/food offered to idols. The question that drives this extended address is: Should Christians eat meat that has been offered to idols during non-Christian rituals?

Paul's nuanced response conveys principles by which Christians in Corinth should govern their lives. These principles promote a balanced approach to life and living in secular society and they are just as relevant for contemporary Christians.



September 29, 2022

Overview of 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1

Wisdom for a Balanced Life

[Review]

The unchecked exercise of rights and/or privileges paves the road toward spiritual abuse that plays out in a degradation of social dynamics, political conversations, economic practices, and personal conduct. A Christian response to the danger of unchecked exercise of rights is the call for balance.

Outline for 1 Corinthians 8:1 – 11:1

8:1-13 □ Knowledge balanced by love

9:1-27 □ Liberty balanced by discipline

10:1-11:1 □ Experience balanced by responsibility

September 29, 2022

Wisdom for a Balanced Life – part 2 of 3

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 ***Liberty balanced by discipline***

In Chapter 9, Paul supports his argument in Chapter 8 by turning the camera onto himself. To help the Corinthians learn to balance their rights for the cause of the Gospel, Paul essentially says: “Look at me.” Simultaneously, Paul may also be using this portion of the letter to address concerns about the “burden” he has become to the believers in Corinth.

Outline:

- Rationale for disciplined liberty (1-14)
- Examples of disciplined liberty (15-27)

September 29, 2022

Rationale for disciplined liberty (9:1-18)

- An appeal to authority (1-2)
 - the authority of anointing
 - the authority of fruitfulness
- An appeal to reason (3-7)
- An appeal to rights (8-14)
 - as a principle of the Law (8-10) □ Deut 25:4
 - as expected of the church (11-12a) □ 1 Tim 5:17-18; Gal 6:6
 - as affirmed by Jesus (12b-14) □ Mt 10:10/Lk 10:7

Rationale for disciplined liberty (9:1-18 cont'd.)

- An appeal to restraint (15-18)

An image of disciplined liberty emerges, and it is Paul himself. Paul is free to press several rights (v. 4-6, 11-14). Instead, he models restraint.

- restrained by reciprocity □ ministry is not performed on a *quid pro quo* basis.
- restrained by necessity □ ministry comes with duties and responsibilities.
- restrained by reward □ the reward of ministry comes from God.
 - the reward of ministry is for their good.

Examples of disciplined liberty (9:19-27)

- A lesson on liberty for the leader (19-23)
 - Be free to serve all others (19)
 - Be free to be flexible for the sake of others (20-21)
 - Be free to identify and empathize with others (22)
 - Keep the main thing the main thing: “that I might win the more” and “be partaker of it with you.”

Examples of disciplined liberty (9:19-27 cont'd.)

- Analogies for faithful discipline (24-27)
 - Track athlete: Only one can win vs. All can win
 - Boxer: Self-discipline prevents self-disqualification

Athletes devote much for the chance of competing to win an award that is only **given to one of all who started out**—an award that will fade away. How much more should the Christian devote herself or himself in order to obtain the award **prepared for all who finish well**—an award that will never fade away?

Lesson: Obtaining the incorruptible prize comes at great cost. It's worth it!

September 29, 2022

For next week:

- Pray about today's lesson
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-11:1



Any Questions?

