

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

Week of August 20, 2023

BELONG

Ask this Ice Breaker Question: What is your favorite type of cuisine to eat at an all-you-can-eat restaurant?

BELIEVE

Have someone in your group read aloud: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:

- 1. First Corinthians 10 has much to say about eating. In the first part of the section Paul sees a link between eating and idolatry. Why do you think he makes this connection? What possible connection can there be between food and idolatry?**

Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

Paul understands that those in Christ are to be, above all things, sober-minded. Christians, therefore, try not to live with a flippant attitude -- including our approach to eating. Jesus Christ also seemed to link food to matters of importance. Consider that one of our two ordinances commemorates Jesus breaking his body for us and shedding his blood for us.

- Food is something we cannot live without. Perhaps Paul is linking our dependency on food with our dependency on God.*
- Food is a regular part of our weekly ritual. Perhaps Paul is linking our ritual need for God with our ritual need for food.*
- Saying yes to God means saying no some things. Perhaps Paul is reminding us that even what we eat is subject to prayerful consideration before God.*

- 2. In the second part of this chapter, Paul speaks to eating food around a table. He sees two tables for every believer - the table of the world and the table of the Lord. His observation is that if someone tries to eat from BOTH tables, then it is impossible for them eat from the Lords table. In other words, it is**

not possible to keep your options open while trying to follow Jesus. What do you think of Paul's observation?

- 3. Have you ever seen this kind of approach (Eat only from the Lord's table) mishandled in the local church? Have you ever seen this kind of approach applied in a healthy way in the local church?**

Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

- *Independent fundamentalists leaders try to completely abstain from anything worldly. Oftentimes these leaders will go to extremes to lump everything into the category of worldly. At other times, these leaders will use "worldly" as a weapon to exclude anyone or anything they don't particularly like.*
- *The Amish abstain from anything created just after the industrial revolution.*
- *We are hyper aware of the abuses of this rule. We are less aware of the healthy practices of this rule.*

BECOME:

- 4. For Paul there seems to be two warnings here: (1) be careful not to be flippant, and (2) make sure to be all in. Which warning is more challenging to you today?**