

# What Really Matters?

1 Corinthians 8:4-6

Week of July 23, 2023

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## BELONG

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**Ask this Ice Breaker Question:** Growing up, did you ever have an invisible friend or an invisible monster in the closet?

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## BELIEVE

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Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

*We are re-examining a passage from a previous chapter. Specifically, the goal of today's discussion is to dive deeper into the clarity of Christianity and the person of Jesus.*

**Have someone in your group read aloud: 1 Corinthians 8:4-6**

**Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:**

- 1. Paul wants to discuss things that exist in comparison to things that don't exist. Can you think of anything in our current culture that we spend time discussing and thinking about, but that doesn't *REALLY* exist.**

Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

*Examples might include:*

- Mythical creatures (such as Zombies)
- Scarcity myths (such as overpopulation. Most developed countries have declining birth rates)
- The perfect marriage.
- The perfect children.
- The perfect local church.

- 2. Paul sees discussions of existence as being closely linked with idol worship – something invisible to which we assign ultimate importance. Can you think of anything in our culture to which people assign a sort of ultimate importance – and yet does not *REALLY* exist?**

Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

There are many idols in our American cultural context. The three historical examples include:

- *Monetary value.* How often do people think, "If I just had a few more dollars, then I would really be free to live how I want to live?"
- *Sexual connection.* How often do people think, "If I am just with the right romantic partner, then I will be satisfied?"



- *Political leverage.* How often do people think, “If we just get the right leaders in place, then this church/government/school/family will find health and prosperity?”
3. **For Paul, the argument for the importance of Jesus stems mainly from the simple fact that He exists as God. How would you think about adjusting your approach to interacting with other religions / worldviews in light of the reality that you are not debating about which God is better than the other – but framing it in terms of one God existing and the other gods not existing?**

Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

- Would you be less scared and more confident? Sometimes the superstitious nature of other religions makes us nervous.
- Would you be less aggressive and more kind? Sometimes the implications of religious views makes us want to correct the narrative by any means possible (News media certainly doesn't help us here).
- Would you be more intentional and less reactive? Sometimes the number of religious worldviews can overwhelm us.

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**BECOME:**

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4. **Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus from you? Is there a co-worker, neighbor, friend, family member? Does Paul's teaching on the singular existence of Jesus encourage or embolden you to start up a fresh conversation?**

