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MEALTIME

1 CORINTHIANS 10:14-16, "Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" (ESV)

- Paul is about to give more clarification on navigating food sacrificed to idols
  - What happens at the temple should not be taken lightly
    - Flee from it
    - "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." (1 Corinthians 10:17, ESV)
- Changes at the marketplace
  - Meat sold at the marketplace that had been sacrificed to idol
    - This may seem like something Paul should have covered when he was last with them
- No longer selling "kosher" or "Jewish" meat
- If you are wise, you'll see the difference
  - Eating meat at the temple where people are worshipping and sacrificing to idols is quite different than eating meat served to you at another's home
    - Except when the caution is provided that the meat was knowingly offered to an idol

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    - "What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?" (1 Corinthians 10:19, ESV)
- It's more about choosing to honor God and one another
- The "cup of blessing" = the cup Jesus used at The Last Supper
    - Notice that Paul doesn't focus on "holy grail" as a relic, but rather symbolic metaphor

1 CORINTHIANS 10:20-21, "No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons…You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons." (ESV)

- Although idols may not be real, demons take advantage of men who worship idols
- Roman Catholic interpretations of this passage emphasize communion as a sacrifice for sin
    - Protestant interpretations insist that the emphasis is on the fellowship and meal, rather than the act of sacrifice

1 CORINTHIANS 10:24, "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor." (ESV)

- Again, something may be legal, but that doesn't make it good or right
    - "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up." (1 Corinthians 10:23, ESV)

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1 CORINTHIANS 10:26, "For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." (ESV)

- Quotes King David and the Psalms
  - "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.

The world and all its people belong to him." (Psalm 24:1, NLT)

1 Corinthians 10:27, "If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience." (ESV)

- How do you navigate dinner at an unbeliever's house?
  - "But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience– I do not mean your conscience, but his…" (10:28-29)
    - Recognize the struggle in one another
  - "…why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience?" (10:29)
    - Prioritize the needs of others

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-33, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved." (ESV)

- Your actions can obstruct another's salvation

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Bruce W. Winter, After Paul Left Corinth, Timothy Brookins, Corinthian Wisdom, Stoic Philosophy, and the Ancient Economy, Craig Keener, 1-2 Corinthians, N.T. Wright, The New Testament in Its World