

I CORINTHIANS 8-10

I AM THIRD

FOOD FIGHTS

Ronnie Norman

I AM THIRD

The burning question for them: is it permissible to eat food that has been sacrificed to idols?

1 Corinthians 8:1

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.

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Paul's answer: it depends.

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- Idol Temple Restaurant? Be aware.
- Idol Temple Ritual? No!
- Meat Market? Yes
- Homes? Yes, but ...

1 Corinthians 10:14-31

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14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation

1 Corinthians 10:14-31

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in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

¹⁸ Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? ¹⁹ Do I mean then that food

1 Corinthians 10:14-31

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sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too;

1 Corinthians 10:14-31

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you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. ²² Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

²³ "I have the right to do anything," you say —but not everything is beneficial.

1 Corinthians 10:14-31

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“I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴ No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

²⁵ Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience,

1 Corinthians 10:14-31

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²⁶ for, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”

²⁷ If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you,

1 Corinthians 10:14-31

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“This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. ²⁹ I am referring to the other person’s conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another’s conscience?

1 Corinthians 10:14-31

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30 If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews,

1 Corinthians 10:14-31

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Greeks or the church of God — ³³ even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

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The “I Am Third” Mindset

The “I Am Third” Mindset **I AM THIRD**

1. Will this build up my fellow Christians?

1 Corinthians 10

24 No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

*32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God —
— 33 even as I try to please everyone in every way.*

The “I Am Third” Mindset **I AM THIRD**

1. Will this build up my fellow Christians?
2. Will this be a bridge to non-Christians?

1 Corinthians 10

27 If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience.

For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

The “I Am Third” Mindset **I AM THIRD**

1. Will this build up my fellow Christians?
2. Will this be a bridge to non-Christians?
3. Will this feed my strengths or weaknesses?

1 Corinthians 10

*“I have the right to do anything,” you say—
but not everything is beneficial. “I have the
right to do anything”—but not everything
is constructive.*

The “I Am Third” Mindset **I AM THIRD**

1. Will this build up my fellow Christians?
2. Will this be a bridge to non-Christians?
3. Will this feed my strengths or weaknesses?
4. Is this an action worth copying?

1 Corinthians 11:1

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

5. Will Christ be clearly honored?

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever
you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:31