

**the book of
1st
Corinthians
Thursday Morning
Bible Class
1 Corinthians 7:25-8:13**

1

Advice to the Unmarried – 7:25-28

- † 25 – On the theme of marriage, Paul's preference is celibacy. But this view is not a command, just his opinion.
- † 26 – The "present distress" ??
- † 1) A food shortage?
- † 2) Persecution?
- † 3) Christ would return soon?

2

Advice to the Unmarried – 7:25-28

- † 27 – If married, stay that way. If unmarried, stay that way.
- † 28 – However, if you want to get married, it is not sinful to do so. But marriage will bring added burdens at a time when there are already problems for Christians.

3

The Time is Short – 7:29-31

- † 29-31 – Paul believes the end is coming soon, and that has a bearing on how you live the remaining days.
- † Put away those things which would lessen your attention on God.

4

Service Without Anxiety – 7:32-35

- † 32-33 – Paul's preference is that they are not burdened by the cares of this world. A married man must be concerned with pleasing his wife.
- † 34 – The same applies to a woman.
- † 35 – He is only telling them this for their own good, not to bind them to his opinion. Give God your undivided attention.

5

To Marry or Not – 7:36-38

- † 36 – He repeats: Marriage is not wrong. If you cannot control your passions, get married.
- † 37- But preferable is celibacy.
- † 38 – Paul's opinion: marriage is great, but celibacy is better.

6

Remarriage – 7:39-40

- † 39 – That which applies to the unmarried single also applies to widows.
- † 40 – Again, his opinion is that they are better off staying single.

7

Food Offered to Idols – 8:1-13

- † Another issue raised by the Corinthian church was the problem of eating food that had been offered first to idols.
- † Normally food, before it is sold, was dedicated to one of the Corinthian idols.
- † Question: Should a Christian partake of such food?

8

Food Offered to Idols – 8:1-13

- † The Jewish Council (Acts 15) had asked the Gentile Christians to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, blood, and immorality.
- † But some Corinthian Christians could not see why they should give up idol-meat because, after all, idols don't really exist.
- † But a bigger issue – how do you treat your neighbor?

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Food Offered to Idols – 8:1-13

† Paul differentiates between Christians with “knowledge” and the “weak”. It refers to how easily one is offended. The one with “knowledge” knows that false gods do not exist, but the “weak” Christian is more easily offended by anything associated with paganism.

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Food Offered to Idols – 8:1-13

† 1 – We may know that idols don’t really exist, but do not act superior to those who do not share your understanding. Pride alienates. Love edifies.
 † 2 – Pride in one’s knowledge is incomplete. It lacks love.
 † 3 – Love comes from God and frees us from self-centered pride.

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Food Offered to Idols – 8:1-13

† 4 – Yes, idols do not exist. God alone is God.
 † 5 – Just because someone worships an idol does not make it real.
 † 6 – There is only one God and Lord – Jesus Christ.
 † 7 – The problem: Not all realize this truth. Some feel guilty when they eat meat offered to idols.

12

Food Offered to Idols – 8:1-13

- † 8 – Food, in and of itself, is neither good nor bad.
- † 9-10 – The danger is that those who are free to eat such meat may cause the weak to believe that they have sinned.
- † 11 – If you pridefully use your “knowledge”, it may cause a brother to lose his faith.

13

Food Offered to Idols – 8:1-13

- † 12 – A sin against your brother is a sin against Christ.
- † 13 – Paul becomes like the weak. Love takes precedence over “knowledge.”
- † It is never right to lead a vulnerable brother to do something against his conscience.
- † What we think is OK may be offensive to a fellow believer.

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