

<p><b>Bible Text</b> English Standard Version</p>	<p><b>Observations</b> What does the text say?</p>	<p><b>Interpretations &amp; Questions</b> What does it mean to all Christians?</p>	<p><b>Applications</b> What does it mean to me?</p>
<p><b>1 Corinthians 8:1-13</b></p> <p><b>Food Offered to Idols</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Now concerning[a] food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. <b>2</b> If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <b>3</b> But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.[b]</p> <p><b>4</b> Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” <b>5</b> For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— <b>6</b> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.</p> <p><b>7</b> However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.</p> <p><b>8</b> Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <b>9</b> But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <b>10</b> For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating[c] in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged,[d] if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <b>11</b> And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.</p> <p><b>12</b> Thus, sinning against your brothers[e] and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <b>13</b> Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.</p>			

# First Love

Lesson 8

1 Corinthians 8:1-9:27

Bible Text English Standard Version	Observations What does the text say?	Interpretations & Questions What does it mean to all Christians?	Applications What does it mean to me?
<p><b>a:</b> 1 Corinthians 8:1 The expression <i>Now concerning</i> introduces a reply to a question in the Corinthians' letter; see 7:1  <b>b:</b> 1 Corinthians 8:3 Greek <i>him</i>  <b>c:</b> 1 Corinthians 8:10 Greek <i>reclining at table</i>  <b>d:</b> 1 Corinthians 8:10 Or <i>fortified</i>; Greek <i>built up</i>  <b>e:</b> 1 Corinthians 8:12 Or <i>brothers and sisters</i>:</p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			
<p><b>1 Corinthians 9:1-18</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? <b>2</b> If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.</p> <p><b>3</b> This is my defense to those who would examine me. <b>4</b> Do we not have the right to eat and drink? <b>5</b> Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife,[a] as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? <b>6</b> Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? <b>7</b> Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?</p> <p><b>8</b> Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? <b>9</b> For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? <b>10</b> Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. <b>11</b> If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? <b>12</b> If others</p>			

# First Love

Lesson 8

1 Corinthians 8:1-9:27

<b>Bible Text</b> English Standard Version	<b>Observations</b> What does the text say?	<b>Interpretations &amp; Questions</b> What does it mean to all Christians?	<b>Applications</b> What does it mean to me?
<p>share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?</p> <p>Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. <b>13</b> Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? <b>14</b> In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.</p> <p><b>15</b> But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. <b>16</b> For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <b>17</b> For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. <b>18</b> What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.</p>			
<p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p><b>a:</b> 1 Corinthians 9:5 Greek <i>a sister as wife</i></p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			

# First Love

Lesson 8

1 Corinthians 8:1-9:27

<b>Bible Text</b> English Standard Version	<b>Observations</b> What does the text say?	<b>Interpretations &amp; Questions</b> What does it mean to all Christians?	<b>Applications</b> What does it mean to me?
<p><b>1 Corinthians 9:19-27</b></p> <p><b>19</b> For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <b>20</b> To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <b>21</b> To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <b>22</b> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <b>23</b> I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.</p> <p><b>24</b> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <b>25</b> Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <b>26</b> So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <b>27</b> But I discipline my body and keep it under control, <b>[b]</b> lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.</p>			
<p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p><b>b:</b> 1 Corinthians 9:27 Greek <i>I pummel my body and make it a slave</i></p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			

## Running Life with a Purpose

---

Like the Corinthians, we are in the midst of great activity most of the time. Our busy lives are full of work, errands, leisure activities, education and relationships. Like the Corinthians, we lose our focus on the important things as we hurry from one thing to another, failing to be in the path of our God. This is the time to center our efforts in Christ, and to run our lives with a purpose.

Marathon runners have very strict routines. They must eat properly, sleep enough hours, and train hard almost every day. They must also avoid activities that block their purpose: finishing the race. In order to cross the finish line, they must focus on the path and not waste time and effort. At the end of all this hard work is a reward, a valuable prize. As Christians, we have to run the race, but also we must keep in mind that all our efforts are directed toward our love for God. Our prize is to be known by Him. What a glory!

What do these scriptures tell you about running with a purpose?

### **Exodus 9:16**

**16** But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.

### **Psalms 32:8**

**8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

### **Proverbs 19:21**

**21** Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

Reflecting with the Holy Spirit

---

Nobody can run our race for us; we have the freedom to do it. The reward is waiting for us and this reward lasts forever!

Consider one of the following prompts to further reflect upon this lesson, or follow where the Spirit leads.

- Write down your plans for this week. As a Christian, note how each activity in your life impacts other people in their pursuit of His kingdom.
- Think about a time when you undertook a project with a purpose. How did it feel? Do you live your life for Christ with the same passionate purpose? Why or why not? If not, what changes do you plan to make?
- Write a letter of encouragement to another Christian as he/she lives his/her life in pursuit of God's purpose.



Prayer Requests

---