

# Love + Liberty

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: PAT SMITH

DATE: November 14, 2021

## Our Participation With Christ Clarifies Our Decision-making Process 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

### REVIEW

**1 Cor. 8:4** "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."...**8** Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do...**10** [but] if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols?"

**Running from idolatry is the sensible game plan for all who claim fellowship with Christ.**

**1 Cor. 10:14** "Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. **15** I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say."

**It's common sense: ceremonial meals are tacit declarations of allegiance & friendship.**

1. Believers have fellowship with Christ, the real person of the Lord's supper.

**1 Cor. 10:16** "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? **17** Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

2. The Jews declare loyalty to Yahweh who stands behind the temple altar.

**1 Cor. 10:18** "Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?"

**Deut. 12:26** "...and you shall go to the place that the Lord will choose, **27** and offer your burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, on the altar of the Lord your God. The blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the Lord your God, but the flesh you may eat."

3. Similarly, attending a pagan meal proclaims friendship to the "god" receiving the sacrifice.

**1 Cor. 10:19** "What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? **20** No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God..."

## It's impossible to be friendly both to Christ and the hostile spirits he defeated on the cross.

**1 Cor. 10:19b-** *"... I do not want you to be participants with demons. **21** You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. **22** Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?"*

**Col. 2:15** *"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."*

**Exodus 34:13** *"You shall tear down their altars... **14** (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), **15** lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice..."*

## A true grasp of our union with Christ provides a common-sense path through life.

**1 Cor. 8: 10** *"For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? **11** And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. **12** Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. **13** Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."*

**2 Cor. 6:15** *"What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? **16** What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God... **7:1** Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God."*

## Reflection & Discussion

1. Are there any "offers of participation" in your life that are incompatible with fellowship with Christ?
2. Recall or imagine a recent situation in which your unity to Christ and his people have simplified or clarified a decision?
3. Read *Ephesians 5:3-14*. Do you or have you ever felt pressured to partner with the list of dark practices Paul lists? Think of your motivation for doing or not doing these things. Are you motivated more often by negative reasons (e.g. possible embarrassment) or positive reasons (e.g. union with Christ, enjoyment of pleasing the Father, etc.)?

## SONGS

"Everlasting God" – Brenton Brown

"The Lion And The Lamb" - Leeland Mooring, Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson

"From The Inside Out" - Audius Mtawarira, Israel Cruz, Ryan Tedder, Phil Tan, Stuart Crichton

"Christ Be All Around Me" – David Leonard, Jack Mooring, Leeland Mooring, Leslie Jordan

## BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$55,691.80

WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,561,017.24

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,587,240.00