

# How to go to Church

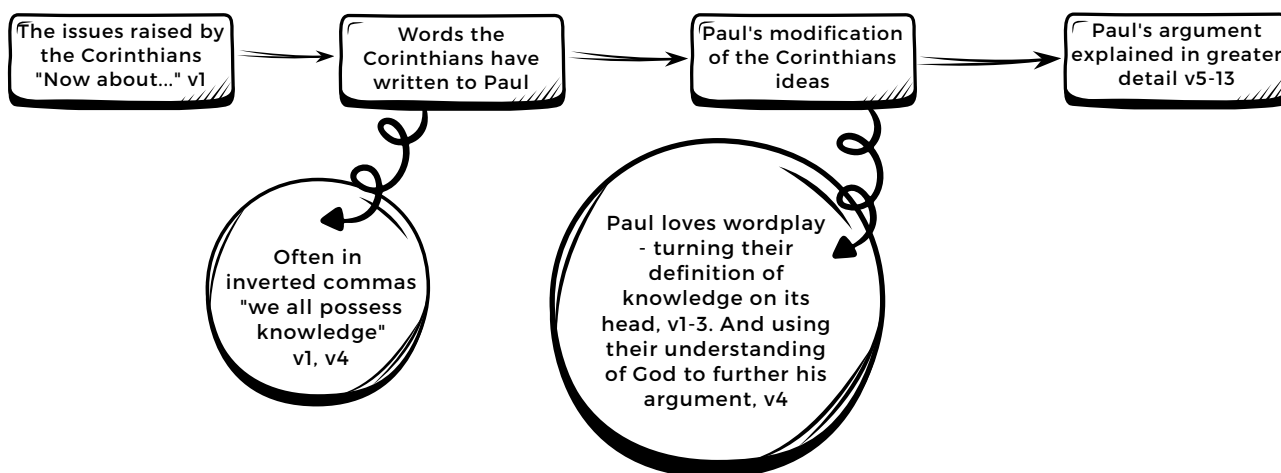
**BIBLE STUDIES BOOK 1**  
**EXPLORING 1 CORINTHIANS 8-10**



## Study 1 - 1 Corinthians 8 + 10:23-11:1

### Use your freedom in Christ for the salvation of weak believers

Often it seems 1 Corinthians is 'sporadic' and hard to follow, but there is a logical flow in Chapter 8 (and other chapters as well) that can be seen below:



Read 1 Corinthians 8



#### Exploring the Passage

- The Corinthians boast of their knowledge. How does Paul challenge their view of what knowledge is?
- What is the knowledge that Christians have? v3-6
- Why don't some Christians 'possess this knowledge'? 8:7
- What does Paul conclude about food and being spiritual? 8:8



Read 1 Corinthians 10:23 - 11:1



#### Digging Deeper

- From both chapters 8 and 10, how are we to think about:
  - The weak brother or sister (a new Christian at risk of falling away)
  - How you use your own 'rights' and 'freedoms'
  - The Glory of God
  - Our attitude towards growth group and church

**In what areas of your life are you loving yourself and not Christ?**  
Where are you using your freedom to serve yourself instead of God's people? Where are you insisting on your rights instead of giving up your rights.

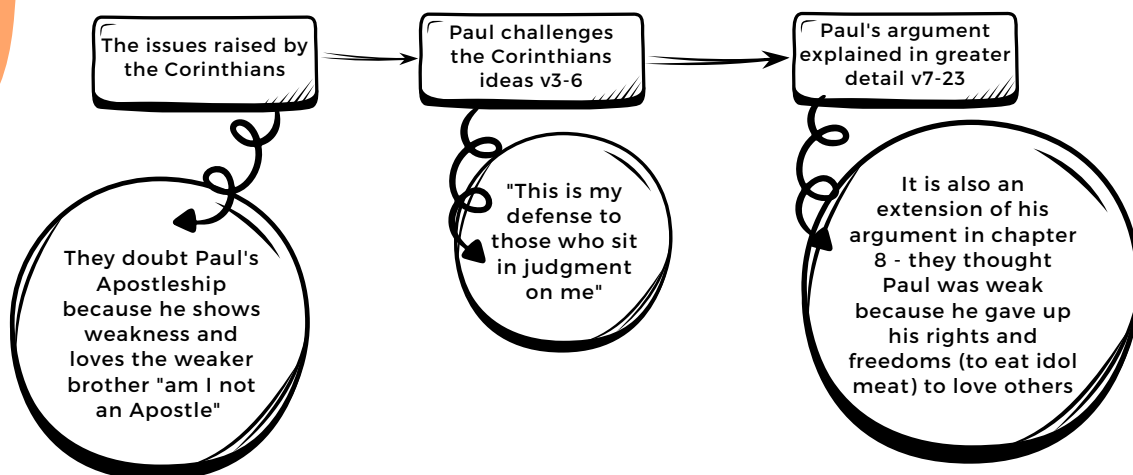
**What changes do you need to make to how you approach Sunday Morning?** The 'weak believer' is a new Christian who is at risk of falling away - often this will be our children and young people who are still growing in the faith. What practical steps can you take on Sundays and during the week to serve our children and young people?



## Study 2 - 1 Corinthians 9:1-23

### Use your freedom in Christ for the salvation of non-believers

Again we see a logical flow similar to chapter 8:



Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-23



Exploring the Passage

- What judgements do the Corinthians make about Paul? 9:1-2
- Paul defends himself before those who are judging him. What evidence does Paul give for his rights? Consider –
  - 9:7, 9:8-10, 9:13-14
- Why did Paul forgo his rights when he preached the gospel in Corinth? Consider – 9:12b, 9:15-18
- The Corinthians boast of their freedom and strength. They do what is best for them. How is this different to Paul's ministry in 9:19-23?



Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1



Digging Deeper

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 summarises Paul's mindset in chapter 9.

- How is this mindset reflect in your life?
- What does it look like for you to 'become all things to all people' so that you can share the gospel with them?

What activity could you do with a friend or family member that you don't necessarily enjoy? So that like Paul, you can use your freedom to love those who don't yet know Jesus.

What 'rights' and 'freedoms' do you insist on at church?  
The freedom to be in growth group with my close friends?  
The right to sit with the same people in the same place every week?



## Study 3 - 1 Corinthians 9:24 - 10:22

### Use your freedom in Christ for the salvation of yourself

Chapter 10 is the logical conclusion of chapters 8 and 9.



Notice the 'eat' and 'drink' language. 'Baptised' into Moses - this is participation language - they were real participants. Keep this in mind when we get to 10:11-22 (and 10:31-33)



Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:11



#### Exploring the Passage

- What is the difference between how Paul conducts himself and how the Israelites acted in the wilderness?
- What lessons do the Corinthians need to learn from the Israelites? (see table below)

SIN	ISRAEL	CORINTHIANS
10:7	Exodus 32:1-10	1 Cor 5:11, 6:15-20
10:8	Numbers 25:1-5	1 Cor 5:11, 6:15-20
10:9	Numbers 21:1-7	1 Cor 4:8
10:10	Numbers 14:1-4, 16:1-5	1 Cor 9:1-2, 4:1-3, 4:8-20



Read 1 Corinthians 10:11-22



#### Exploring the Passage

- What commands and warnings does Paul give to the Corinthians?
- What are the two meals (tables) compared in this passage?
- What does it mean to participate in the blood and body of Christ, the altar, and the demons?



#### Digging Deeper

Where you eat/participate = where you belong. By eating in the Temple the Corinthians may not be showing their freedom, but showing where they really belong.

- Do your actions show you belong to Christ? Or belong to your idols and addictions? *Video Games, YouTube, Self-Image. Gossiping?*



Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1



#### Digging Deeper

What parts of your life do you need to give more thought to? For the sake of weak believers, non-believers, and yourself!

How would your life change if you listened to Paul's warnings?

When was the last time you gave up your 'good' for the salvation of others?

