

I Corinthians 7:25-40

Discussion: What do you think our involvement should be with other religious synods (WELS, ELCA), churches (Non-Denom, Catholics, Methodists etc.) or different faiths (Muslims, Jews, Mormons etc.)? What are the things we can work together on? What things should we not do together? What are the dangers of working together? What are the positives?

Or,

Would you pass on bacon at a breakfast brunch in order to witness to a Jewish person?

How are we united?

1. Vs 14-17

- a. What two groups in the church of Corinth is Paul speaking to?
- b. What does Idolatry have to do with the Cup of the Lord and the One Loaf?
- c. *For as the bread consisting of many grains is made one, so that the grains no where appear; they exist indeed, but their difference is not seen by reason of their conjunction; so are we conjoined both with each other and with Christ: there not being one body for you, and another for your neighbor to be nourished by, but the very same for all. Wherefore also he adds, For we all partake of the one bread. Now if we are all nourished of the same and all become the same, why do we not also show forth the same love, and become also in this respect one?* John Chrysostom
- d. What does it mean to be one loaf together?

2. Vs 18-22

- a. Leviticus 7:11-36
- b. What was the peace offering (shellamim)? The peace offering was the sacrifice in which the worshiper received back a portion of the sacrificial meat to be cooked and eaten in a ritual meal (Leviticus 3; 7:11-36). A male or female animal from the flock or herd was sacrificed, its blood was poured onto the main altar, its breast and right leg were given to the priest and his family (as part of his income), and the rest of the animal was consumed in a communal meal. The Israelite(s) thus consumed the very animal who died for his atonement. It was a preview of the Lord's Supper, in which we eat the very body of the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for us on the altar of the cross.

Peace offerings were sacrificed to give thanks to God (praise), to fulfill a vow (votive), or as free-will offerings.¹

- c. Is this equitable to different faith traditions?
- d. Exodus 34:14-What does Paul mean by jealous?

3. Vs 23-24

- a. Why do you think Christians have embraced this ideology? "*All things are lawful,*"
- b. Vs 24 is the synopsis of chapters 8-10

4. Vs 25-30

- a. Matthew 15:11, Acts 10:15
- b. Three Kinds of Law
 - i. Ceremonial
 - ii. Civil
 - iii. Moral
- c. Without raising any question
- d. However, verse 28
- e. Verse 30 could this mean in fellowship with non-Christians Paul gives thanks?

5. Vs 31-33

- a. How could you give offense to Jews?
- b. How could you give offense to gentiles?
- c. So what does one do?
- d. Could the church be improved if everyone sought not their own advantage but rather their neighbors?

¹ Chad Bird