

46-1Corinthians10b-Transcript

0:37Right, so we see here very, very clearly, this first part of chapter 10, I've preached on this in the past.

0:44These things were our examples to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

0:50And so I, I think it certainly makes the point.

0:53That's a very important point.

0:54We shouldn't lust after evil things.

0:56Our forefathers did this and they fell in the wilderness.

1:00But Paul was not making a generic point.

1:04He was really driving home the point that he had made earlier the question that he was answering in 1 Corinthians chapter 8.

1:14What about meat sacrificed idols?

1:17And so he started the first part of his answer, saying, hey, come on, you've got to be thinking about edification, you've got to be thinking from through the lens of agape.

1:26You, you've got to care for your brother, who may not have the level of knowledge that you have.

1:31And then, you know, if you have these cameras, these, these iPhone cameras.

1:35, they have a selfie.

1:37So selfie is a big thing as a result of the, phone camera.

1:41All of a sudden, people are caught up in narcissism and you know, of course, we take pictures and want to have memories.

1:48But there's a lot of young people and even when we were traveling, we just see people just caught up in themselves.

1:56so that camera, you know, faces, faces forward.

1:59But there's a button that you can press where you could be facing outward, press the button again and it faces inward.

2:05I think that's a good metaphor for what Paul does.

2:09In chapter 8, the lens is pointing outward, and it's concern for your brother who may fall or stumble because of what you're doing.

2:17And then he presses the button to flip the lens.

2:20So now it's facing the, the, the, the viewer.

2:24Instead of looking out, it's like, look at yourself, take a picture of yourself and see what's there.

2:29That's where he pivots to in chapter 9.

2:33It's like, don't feel like you're so strong and powerful and spiritual, you're actually at risk.

2:39And so he begins to use himself as an example.

2:43To say, you know, he has rights, but he doesn't exercise them.

2:46But in, in verse 24 of chapter 9, this is where he pivots to use a metaphor of a race.

2:52That don't think just cause you're in the race, you're going to win.

2:56In fact, races are a lot more about losing than they are about winning.

3:00He says there's there's one winner, and maybe you could say a 2nd and a 3rd prize.

3:04But after that, everybody else, everybody else is a loser.

3:07 So, if, if 100 people are running the race, then you have 97 losers.
3:13 And then you have a 2nd and a 3rd place.
3:16 So be careful.
3:18 Think about your own standing, not just, yes, you have to be concerned about your brother, but what about you?
3:23 And then he begins in chapter 10 to really bring it home by looking at ancient Israel, continuing this metaphor of many run, most fail.
3:34 Many run, most fail.
3:36 So don't be overly confident.
3:38 And he then gives the example of ancient Israel, and he says here, these things were our examples to the extent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.
3:48 And again, it's not a generic point, it's a very specific point.
3:52 Ancient Israel lusted after meat sacrificed idols.
3:58 And they sat down to eat and drink.
4:00 And they rose up to sexual depravity.
4:03 They got seduced, they got pulled in.
4:06 And he's saying to these very overly confident Corinthian leaders, be careful.
4:13 Be careful about the doctrine that you're teaching.
4:16 In verse 7 he continues to then make the point.
4:21 Neither should you be idolatrous, as were some of them, or you could even say most of them.
4:27 Do not be idolaters.
4:29 That's that's what they did.
4:31 As it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink.
4:35 Whose meat sacrificed to idols, and they sat down to eat and drink.
4:40 And then they rose up to play.
4:42 Be careful.
4:43 In verse 12 he says, therefore, Let him that thinks he stands, you teachers, you local teachers in Corinth.
4:52 Who are teaching with such confidence, with such great knowledge.
4:56 Let him that thinks he stand, take heed.
4:59 Lest he fall This is not one saved always saved.
5:03 In verse 14, he says, wherefore?
5:07 My dearly beloved, yeah, I'm I'm answering your question.
5:11 What about meat sacrifice to idols?
5:14 My dearly beloved, flee idolatry.
5:17 Get as far away from this thing as you possibly can.
5:21 Now he continues.
5:24 This is the back half now of chapter 10.
5:26 And again, this whole chapter, chapters 89, and 10 are all a unit.
5:31 He continues, I speak as to wise men.
5:34 Judge you what I say.
5:36 So he's complimenting them that you have a lot of knowledge, we all have knowledge.
5:41 So I want you to judge carefully, discern the truth of what I'm telling you.

5:46 Now, This again is another passage that I'm sure I've preached on out of context.

5:53 The context for this passage is meat sacrifice to idols.

5:58 That is the lens through which we must view this passage.

6:03 That is the lens through which we must understand what is Paul saying?

6:07 The cup of blessing which we bless, isn't it the communion of the blood of Christ?

6:14 The bread which we break.

6:16 Isn't it the communion of the body of Christ?

6:19 OK, so these are just very pious sounding words, sounds really nice.

6:26 The cup of blessing which we bless, isn't it the communion, the, the, the fellowship of the blood of Christ, and the bread which we break, isn't it the communion of the body of Christ?

6:35 This might be something we preach on and Passover.

6:38 But the point that Paul is making here is meat sacrifice to idols.

6:43 So now he's he's saying like, judge what I'm talking to you about, how dangerous it is for you to sit down and eat and drink.

6:51 With meat sacrificed to idols.

6:54 Think about when we sit down to eat and drink.

6:59 With with our Passover service.

7:02 And the cup of blessing which we bless.

7:05 Isn't it fellowship?

7:07 Into the blood of Christ.

7:10 And then when we eat the bread and we break the bread together, are we not in the fellowship of the body of Christ?

7:18 If, if, and this is clearly they're in this Passover season when he's really making this point.

7:25 That although we're doing something in the physical realm.

7:29 It is connected to the spiritual realm.

7:32 That's the point that he's making.

7:34 Because they're asking about meat sacrifice to idol, can we sit at table?

7:38 And eat meat, sacrifice the idol in the temple.

7:42 Well, he says, think about, back away from that situation and think about our situation.

7:49 When we bless the cup.

7:52 And break the bread In the physical realm.

7:56 Aren't we connected to the spiritual realm?

7:59 So he goes on.

8:04 For we being many.

8:07 Are one bread So we're passing the bread around and all the baptized members are partaking of the bread, and although we're all individuals.

8:17 That piece of bread was one piece that was broken, and we're all sharing it, symbolizing our union and our fellowship in Christ.

8:29 So it's a physical thing.

8:31 We ingesting physical food.

8:34 But it is connected to the spiritual realm.

8:36 This is the point that he's making.

8:39 For we are all partakers of that one bread.

8:42 Now he goes further to say let's let's go back to ancient Israel.

8:47Behold, remember, the point is, meet sacrifice the idols.

8:50So let's keep that in view.

8:52Behold, Israel after the flesh, look at Israel.

8:56After the flash, let's look at physical Israel.

8:59Let's understand the physical dimension.

9:02So, they were not infused, for the most part with the Holy Spirit.

9:06It was a physical nation.

9:08It was the kingdom of God on earth in physical form.

9:12So let's look at Israel after the flesh.

9:14We're just dealing with the physical reality.

9:17Are not they which eat of the sacrifices, partakers of the altar of God?

9:24So, so they had a sacrificial system.

9:27And these carnal physical people sat down to eat.

9:33Well, when they sat down to eat, weren't weren't they participating?

9:37In spiritual worship with the great God.

9:42Don't you know, he says here, so just going back to chapter 9, when we were in chapter 9, he, he made this point earlier to them.

9:49Don't you know that they which minister about the holy things live off the things of the temple, and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar.

10:00That there's they're inextricably linked.

10:02If they're fellowshiping and, and they're servicing the people in, in their fellowship, it, it, there's a spiritual dimension to all God is present.

10:11And there's a spiritual dimension, even though these are just physical Israelites, Israel after the flesh.

10:17Look at the Torah.

10:18In Leviticus 7 and verse 13, besides the cakes he shall offer for his offering, the priest shall leaven bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings.

10:29And of it he shall offer one out of the whole oblation for a heave offering unto the Lord, and it shall be the priests that sprinkles the blood of the peace offering.

10:41So the priest is officiating, but he gets to participate.

10:46In the meal as well, and the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered.

10:56He shall not leave any of it until the morning.

10:59So here is this priest on the physical plane.

11:02He's in the physical dimension, and he's servicing the brethren who are gathering on a physical level, and he's participating in the ingestion.

11:14Of this physical meat.

11:17But it's connected To the worship of the great god.

11:22There's a spiritual dimension to the physical reality.

11:25In Deuteronomy 12 and verse 5.

11:28It it here he says, but unto the place which the Lord your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, so God chooses specifically where the feast will be held, even unto his habitation shall you seek.

11:41That's where you'll go, and there you shall come.

11:45 And there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and your tithes and heave offerings of your hand and your vows and your free will offerings and the firstlings of your herds and your flocks, and there you shall eat before the Lord your God.

12:02 And you shall rejoice in all that you put your hand onto you and your households.

12:08 You're going to bring this tithe and these offerings, and you're going to sacrifice, and you're going to rejoice, and you're going to eat and have, have a wonderful physical experience that is actually connected to the spiritual dimension.

12:25 Wherein the Lord your God has blessed you.

12:27 So, what is Paul saying then?

12:29 So he's saying, look, this, this cup of communion that we break, or those bread that we break, this communion, this cup that we drink, or partakers in the blood and the body of Christ.

12:40 There's a spiritual dimension, ancient Israel.

12:44 When they participated in these offerings, they partook of the the meat, and there was a spiritual dimension to this physical practice.

12:53 What am I saying then?

12:55 You judge what I'm saying, discern what I'm saying.

12:59 But am I, am I saying that the idol is anything?

13:01 We, we've already established the idol is nothing.

13:04 So that's why you're writing to me.

13:05 What about meat sacrifice the idols?

13:07 We all have knowledge.

13:08 We know that the idol is nothing.

13:09 We agree.

13:11 But think about this and discern what I'm saying.

13:14 That the idol is nothing.

13:17 Am I, am I saying the idol is something?

13:18 No, the idol isn't anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything.

13:24 We agree we all have knowledge.

13:26 There's no such thing, these idols don't exist, they're not they're false gods, and what we, the meat sacrifice to them, it it just has no meaning.

13:34 So yeah, you're free to eat meat sacrificed to idols.

13:39 But I'm telling you this, flea idolatry.

13:43 That the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, there's no such thing as idols, but that doesn't mean there's no spiritual dimension.

13:51 I'm telling you this.

13:53 That the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice the devils.

13:59 Devils are real.

14:01 There is a spiritual dimension.

14:03 And just as we participate in in physical activity and and physical food that is connected to a spiritual reality, so do the Gentiles.

14:14 How, how, how, how much desire Or how much are you driven by your desire to eat these tasty meats?

14:24 Where on the one hand, you're causing your brother to stumble in the faith.

14:28 And on the other, you're dabbling with demonic activity.

14:33 Are you sure you want to do this?

14:36 I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils and not to God.

14:42 They're not worshiping God.

14:44 But there is a connection to a spiritual dimension.

14:47 And it's not the true God.

14:50 And I would prefer.

14:53 That you do not have fellowship with devils.

14:57 As you're overconfident.

14:59 In what you're doing.

15:01 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils.

15:06 And, and, you know, maybe we need to just take this one sentence and spread it around the church.

15:12 Because we do have people who have 1 ft in the church and 1 ft in the world, and think that they can do this.

15:19 That they can worship the Lord and also worship devils.

15:22 We can't do this.

15:23 We have to be very, very clear about which camp we're in.

15:27 And ancient Israel was unclear.

15:28 They wanted to be in both camps.

15:30 They wanted to worship Jehovah and also sacrifice to Baal.

15:35 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord.

15:36 And again, this is in, clearly he's writing to them in the time of the Passover, we saw that in chapter 5.

15:43 So this is the season that he's writing them in.

15:45 So this lesson must be really crystallized in their mind.

15:49 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord.

15:52 And the cup of devils.

15:54 You cannot be partakers of the Lord's table and of the table of devils, and we're gonna be in chapter 11 next week, God willing, and maybe we'll get to this part where this is exactly what they thought they could do.

16:06 Be partakers of the Lord's table and the table of devils.

16:11 You have to say to them, whatever you're doing, it's not the Lord's supper.

16:17 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy?

16:20 This is like verse 21 in case they missed it.

16:28 In case they thought it's OK.

16:30 We can do this.

16:33 He just tells them, look, what you're doing is really, really serious.

16:39 This, this is egregious with enormous consequences.

16:43 Do you want to provoke the Lord to anger?

16:46 Do you think we're stronger than him?

16:48 OK, let's take a look at at the consequences of provoking the Lord to anger.

16:55 Numbers 11.

16:58 Numbers 11:33.

17:00And this is when they were lusting for the flesh, and they needed they needed meat, and God gave them meat.

17:06And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, they haven't, they haven't even swallowed yet.

17:10But they've they've got the meat.

17:13From their lust.

17:15While the flesh was yet between their teeth.

17:18Before it was chewed.

17:20The wrath of the Lord was kindled against his own people.

17:24Do you, do you think you're stronger than the Lord?

17:26You want to play games with the Lord?

17:29While the flesh was yet in their teeth, they just bit into the flesh, and they hadn't even chewed it yet.

17:34The wrath of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague.

0:32Do you think we're stronger than the Lord?

0:35It's like they're thinking, yeah, I'm so spiritual, I'm so spiritual, I can go into the temple.

0:41I can eat in their restaurant.

0:43I know the idols nothing.

0:45I'm spiritually superior.

0:46Oh, did you forget?

0:49That you're provoking the jealousy of God.

0:52And do you think you're stronger than him?

0:55Look what he did to ancient Israel, his his own covenant people.

0:59And he called the name of that place.

1:03Kilbroth hatta ava Kilbroth hava ata, which means hava, let's say Kilbroth hatta ava.

1:13And if you look at the meaning of this word, It means The graves of the longing.

1:22Or the burial of lust.

1:25The graves of the lustful.

1:27That's what that's what it means.

1:30So God overthrew them.

1:33And everybody was clear on why.

1:36And they called this this burial ground.

1:40The graves of the lustful.

1:43That's quite a lesson.

1:45And God is the one who overthrew them.

1:47He gave them their lust and then he destroyed them, because they provoked his jealousy.

1:53So they called the the name of that place.

1:56Kibroth Hata Ava.

1:59Because there they buried the people that lost it.

2:02The graves of the people that lusted.

2:05Back to number 10.

2:08So don't provoke God's jealousy.

2:10Now.

2:13He now comes back to the argument he was making.

2:18In chapter 9, That there are things that he has a right to ask for.

2:24That's lawful for him to have.

2:27But because of his lens of agape and the consequences of his actions.

2:33On brethren, on the body of Christ, he chooses not to exercise his rights.

2:41And so, yeah, you have a right, you, you can eat that meat sacrifice to idols.

2:45So now he's coming back to edification.

2:48All things are lawful for me and and it doesn't mean everything is lawful.

2:52So this is a rabbi, this is a Jewish rabbi, he's talking to people within the covenant.

2:58So it's within the covenant, the things that are lawful are not necessarily convenient.

3:04So some people will go wild and say everything is lawful.

3:07Well, this, this is self-contradictory.

3:10So, within the covenant, the things that are lawful, Even though he has a right to them, they may not be appropriate.

3:19All things are lawful for me, but not everything edifies, so it may not be appropriate and it may not edify.

3:26And clearly what he's saying is the driving force of his being, of his ministry, of his being, is edification, it's love, it's building up others.

3:39So yes, something might be lawful, but that's not the first, that's not the top of my mind.

3:43That's not the first concern I have.

3:45The first concern I have is, does this build up the church?

3:49So it might be lawful, but it doesn't build up the church.

3:51I don't want it.

3:54So he says here, back to where he began to answer the question.

3:59Now it was touching things offered unto idols, so he changed the subject to address their their question.

4:04We know that we all have knowledge.

4:07OK, so all of us teaching, we wouldn't be in the role of teaching if we didn't have knowledge.

4:12So we all have knowledge.

4:14Be careful though.

4:16Because knowledge puffs up.

4:18But agape edifies.

4:21And that's the lens that we should be operating from.

4:24We shouldn't be teaching just because we have knowledge.

4:27We should be teaching because we have a passion for the body of Christ.

4:31And that's what animates us.

4:34That's what drives us.

4:36Back to 1 Corinthians 10.

4:38So this is where he's now, he's landing the plane.

4:42So it's a long circuitous way of really trying to bring them to enlightenment, so that he can answer their question, what about meat, sacrifice idols.

4:50OK, let's get really practical now.

4:52 Let no man seek his own benefit.
4:55 This is not how you should operate.
4:58 So you're teaching and you're, it's OK, we can eat in the temple.
5:03 There's no such thing as idols.
5:04 Those brothers are weak, if they're offended, that's on them.
5:08 We're well within our rights to eat this food.
5:10 It's good food, it's the Lord's food.
5:13 God created it.
5:14 Let's eat.
5:16 OK, yeah, you're right.
5:18 You're not wrong.
5:20 In terms of academic perspective.
5:24 But you're certainly wrong in terms of who you are as a body, as a teacher in Christ.
5:31 You should be operating from agape, from edification.
5:35 So don't seek your own benefit.
5:38 Instead, seek your brother's wealth is an italics, but just his his benefit.
5:45 And that's why he said again, when he started answering the question, he's just the whole time now he's just elaborating, but he gave the answer here.
5:53 That you have knowledge, but love is actually what is that issue.
5:58 Love is what is in view.
6:00 If any man love God.
6:03 The same is known by God.
6:06 This is the real knowledge that matters.
6:09 Does God know you?
6:11 Or will he say on his return?
6:16 I, I don't know you.
6:17 Who are you?
6:18 OK, you did all these things, but he didn't operate from love.
6:22 I don't know you.
6:23 So the real knowledge is not the knowledge that you have.
6:27 The knowledge that matters is whether God knows you.
6:30 And God will know us.
6:32 If we really love him, and if we love God, we'll love our brother.
6:39 So now he says, Whatsoever is sold in the markets.
6:44 You can eat that.
6:46 Asking no question for conscience sake.
6:49 So up to now, he's been talking about.
6:52 The restaurants in the temple.
6:55 And going into the temple, and in their festivals and eating within the temple, and clearly it it's all there's a whole ritual associated with it.
7:03 And if you're in the temple, And participating in the ritual, yeah, the idol is nothing, but there is a spiritual dimension here.
7:11 And you need to flee idolatry.
7:12 Don't be like ancient Israel.

7:15 Now, he comes out of the temple, because sort of the the derivative of this is once the meat has been sacrificed, it's gonna end up in the market.

7:24 And you might be in the market, you're going to the market, you're buying your groceries, and this meat that you're buying, it's not clear whether it's there as a derivative of the ritual in the temple, or whether it's just farm, local farmers selling their meat.

7:41 You don't know, it's all packaged the same way.

7:44 So Paul is saying, since the idol is nothing.

7:47 And we all have knowledge.

7:50 If you don't know, you're in the market now, and you don't know where this meat is coming from.

7:55 Eat the meat.

7:57 The idols nothing.

7:58 You're right.

7:58 There there's the idol is nothing.

8:00 There's no idols are not true gods.

8:02 So don't ask any questions.

8:04 You don't, you know, when they're selling the meat, he's saying, don't ask, oh, was this meat sacrificed to idols?

8:12 And then now you're in now, now there's an issue they say yes, we just sacrificed in the temple this morning and this is the leftover.

8:20 OK, now you know it's.

8:22 Part of the ritual worship.

8:25 So for for conscience sake, don't ask.

8:28 It's in the market.

8:29 It's meat.

8:30 It's healthy meat, buy the meat and eat the meat.

8:34 Because the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.

8:38 God created all of this.

8:40 And he created this meat.

8:44 For consumption for the health of the human body.

8:50 Now, If any of them that don't believe invite you to dinner, says to a feast, but this is now just a private dinner.

8:59 Just, hey, would you like to come over for dinner?

9:00 It's your neighbor.

9:01 It's a business associate, and there's an opportunity for you to get to know each other.

9:06 Oh, why don't you come on over, you and your wife come and visit us.

9:09 So if any of them that unbelievers.

9:12 Bid you to a feast, bid you to dinner.

9:15 And you're disposed to go.

9:16 You're like, they're decent people, and they're all right.

9:19 I, I wouldn't mind getting to know them better.

9:21 They're our neighbors.

9:23 Whatever is set before you, eat.

9:27 Asking no question for conscience sake.

9:30 Now let's be careful.

9:34 The context here is meat human food.

9:39 But it's been sacrificed to idols.

9:42 We're not talking about unclean meat, which is not human food.

9:47 So somebody puts squid.

9:50 Octopus, pork.

9:53 Mice, bats.

9:56 In front of you So, oh, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and I'm not gonna ask any questions, it's just some kind of strange meat in the soup.

10:05 I'll just go ahead and eat it.

10:07 No, this is talking about human food.

10:10 And specifically meat sacrifice to idols, human food, but it's been sacrificed to idols.

10:16 If they're putting that in front of you, go ahead and eat it.

10:19 I can remember a couple from South Africa, very nice people, getting to know us, and invited my wife and I to dinner, and they went all out.

10:29 They spared no expense.

10:32 And, and when it came time to dinner, we sat down in front of a wild boar, a wild hog, that was like the whole thing with the head was there.

10:42 And it was just very clear, this is a disaster.

10:46 And we just had to explain to them and apologize, we do not eat pork.

10:50 And they were shocked and sorry, and they should have asked, and we should have clarified, and so we just had to pivot and they ordered pizza, and we had a nice meal.

10:59 And they, they spared, they spared no expense, but then, you know, for the rest of the week, they and their kids and family could eat that.

11:06 But we're not gonna eat food that's poison to the human body, that's not, that's unclean.

11:12 That's not designed for human consumption.

11:14 So that's not what Paul is saying here.

11:15 Whatever is said before you go ahead and eat, asking no question.

11:19 No, in terms of human food, food for human consumption, it's just been sacrificed to idols.

11:24 Don't get into that, just go ahead and eat it.

11:26 You don't need to know.

11:29 But If that pagan man, that unbeliever, says to you, oh, by the way.

11:37 This meat was offered in sacrifice unto idols.

11:40 We, we, we got it from the temple this morning and just letting you know, because I know you're a Christian, just letting you know, customer, you know, is a public service announcement, this meat was sacrificed to idols.

11:53 Well, in that case, do not eat it.

11:56 For his sake that showed it.

11:59 You don't know how God is working with that person.

12:02 You don't know if that person is testing you to say like, is this Christianity thing, is it real?

12:07 So now he's testing you.

12:08 I know you're a Christian, by the way, this meat was sacrificed to idols.

12:11 Don't touch it.

12:13For conscience sake, For the earth is the Lord's in the fullness thereof.

12:18So yeah, we have the freedom to eat this food, but now through the lens of agape, for the concern of this person, now it's clear this meat that's on the table with sacrificed idols, don't eat it for conscience sake.

12:34Conscience, I say.

12:36Not your conscience, but of the other.

12:41It could be that there's a brother there, who's weak in the face and is offended.

12:47By meat sacrificed to idols, having come out of a pagan background.

12:52It could be a pagan.

12:54That is wondering how deep is your faith.

12:57And so they're testing you that, hey, by the way, this was sacrifice idols.

13:00I know that's might be a concern for you.

13:03So you don't want to ruin their conscience.

13:07So not for your sake, you're strong in the faith, that's great, but think about the other.

13:13And he says, for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?

13:19So, this again, to understand this phrase, we have to go back to chapter 9, where he's saying, I have the right to demand of you financing for my ministry, but I don't exercise that right.

13:32And although I have every right to do this, I'm concerned about how people will process this and putting a stumbling block in the way of others.

13:42So I, I shouldn't be judged really.

13:45I have the freedom to do this, but because edification comes first, because agape comes first, it's not, it's not his business to judge me, but it's my business to edify.

13:56It's my business to love.

13:59He says, for if I, by grace, be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that, which I give thanks.

14:09This is food, this is good food.

14:13And I, I'm, I'm giving thanks for it.

14:15I'm gonna eat it.

14:16It's not fair.

14:18That I should be evil spoken of.

14:20Well, it's not fair that I should finance my own travel, finance my own accommodation, finance my own meals.

14:31I have to work in the night, in the evening when everyone else is relaxing, and I have to work on, on, on tents.

14:40So that I can feed myself, and then get up early in the morning and be at the temple and preaching and doing what I'm doing, I should say at the synagogue.

14:50this is unfair.

14:51I'm doing double duty here.

14:53It's not right.

14:57However, So that my ministry is not evil spoken of.

15:03I am gonna do these things, even though it's not fair.

15:07Because I'm thinking through the lens of the edification, I'm thinking through the lens of agape.

15:11 So it's not right.

15:13 That I'm just having a meal that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and I'm giving thanks, and yet they're speaking evil of the fact that I know that this was meat sacrificed to idols.

15:26 I think if we just go to this passage in Romans 14.

15:31 Kind of, I, I was trying to see if I could just take a couple of verses, but again, Paul thinks in these long trains of thought.

15:37, so just a few verses I want to pick up from Romans.

15:42 But he's dealing with the very same topic.

15:44 And I think we just look at it through the angle that he presented to the Romans or the brethren in Rome, I, I think it'd be clear the answer to this question.

15:55 If by grace I'm a partaker, why am I, why am I evil spoken of for that which I give thanks?

16:03 Well, in Romans 14 and 12, he says, so then.

16:08 Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

16:13 Let us therefore Let us not therefore judge one another any more.

16:18 But judge this rather.

16:20 That no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

0:05 Think about the other.

0:08 Seek the the benefit.

0:10 Of the other don't esteem yourself esteem the other.

0:14 Don't put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

0:20 I know, and I'm persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself, and again, this is in the context of meat sacrificed to idols.

0:30 But to him that esteems anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

0:34 So that brother who's weak in the faith and doesn't understand, idle is nothing, we can eat this meat, but it offends him.

0:42 Well, it's unclean to him because he's now he's he can't act out of faith.

0:48 But if your brother is grieved with your meat, this is answering the question, why should I be evil spoken of for that which I've given thanks by grace?

0:57 Well, if your brother is grieved with your meat.

1:00 Now you're not walking in love.

1:04 This is the point.

1:05 Knowledge puffs up.

1:07 We become Arrogance Conceited because of our knowledge, but agape edifice.

1:16 So now, if my brother is grieved with my meat, I'm no longer walking in agape.

1:22 Do not destroy him with your meat, for whom Christ died.

1:27 This is the point.

1:30 Let not then your good be evil spoken of.

1:33 So here he's answering the question and that that he raised rhetorically in Corins.

1:39 This is why we don't want our good to be evil spoken of, and, and you end up destroying for the sake of meat.

1:46 The brother for whom Christ died, do we lust for the meat that much?

1:51 Paul said I'd I'd rather be a vegetarian for the rest of my life.

1:56 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink.
2:01 But righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit now.
2:06 In the kingdom of God here on earth, here, this preview in ancient Israel was a preview.
2:13 But as God inserts his reality, the spiritual dimension into our physical realm, there's a lot of eating.
2:21 There's a lot of fellowship meals.
2:24 And one I think could be understood if they thought that it's all about eating.
2:30 Because I think there's only one feast day where eating is not involved, and that's atonement.
2:36 All of the other feast days involve meals, fellowship meals.
2:42 And in fact, that is how God covenants with man.
2:45 Through a meal.
2:52 Meals are very important.
2:55 In the kingdom of God.
2:57 And I think the devil is destroying the table.
3:01 You go to a restaurant And people cannot put their phones away.
3:06 They're, they're together, family, loved one on a date, whatever.
3:09 we've been, my wife and I have in a restaurant, and we see these young people, 42 couples, and all 4 of them are on their phone.
3:18 They're physically together, but miles apart.
3:21 This is the work of the devil.
3:23 The table is sacred.
3:26 Paul says When I said, you know, don't eat with those who are fornicators, I didn't mean.
3:34 Those in the world, cause then you couldn't eat anywhere.
3:37 But do not sit down with a brother.
3:40 Or a sister who is a known fornicator, do not sit at table with them.
3:45 Because this is a very sacred act.
3:49 And then years ago, or I should say decades ago, the dinner table was sacred.
3:54 I remember being brought up, that if we had to leave the table, we couldn't just leave the table.
4:00 We had to say, excuse me from the table, please.
4:02 I don't know if any of you had that maybe type in the chat if you, if you were brought up that way, where you couldn't just come to the table any way you wanted, you have to be clean and appropriate.
4:13 And then if you had to get up from the table, you say excuse me from the table, please.
4:18 And if in the process of digestion, you, you, you pass some wind, you had to excuse yourself.
4:25 Because the table mattered.
4:27 And you didn't just reach over somebody, you would say to them, could you pass the salt and pepper, please?
4:32 Because it was beyond your distance to reach it.
4:35 And there was, there was decorum at the table.
4:37 Because that's a carryover from an understanding, the table is sacred.
4:45 And so one could be forgiven.

4:47 If they thought the kingdom of God was meat and drink, because the table.
4:52 Features richly in the kingdom of God.
4:54 In fact, when Christ returns, Isaiah 25, he's putting on a big feast.
5:01 And at the Passover, he says, you know, I will not drink of this cup again.
5:06 Until I'm with you in the kingdom, meaning I'm gonna sit at table with you.
5:12 So this is a, yeah, so this is big.
5:14 Meat and drink is big in the kingdom.
5:17 It's a big part of our association with God and with each other.
5:23 And many congregations unfortunately, don't eat together, and this is a disaster.
5:28 We should eat together.
5:30 Often But the kingdom of God is not meat and drink.
5:36 Although that's a big part of it.
5:38 But it points to and develops righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
5:45 For he that in these things serves Christ.
5:49 Is acceptable to God and approved of men.
5:53 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith I may edify another, edify, edify, edify.
6:04 This is like Paul's whole point, like, hey everybody, if you just boil it down to, does this edify, you can answer the questions yourself.
6:14 But since you're not quite there yet, and you're dining on milk, let me spend some time spelling this out for you.
6:22 It's about edification, building up each other, building up the body.
6:28 For meat Destroy not the work of God.
6:33 We are each the work of God.
6:36 And just because you desire to satisfy your taste buds, are you going to destroy him?
6:41 For whom Christ died.
6:43 For me, destroy not the work of God.
6:45 All things indeed are pure.
6:48 But it is evil for that man who eats with a fence.
6:53 So yeah, you're within your right to go ahead and eat, but what if the person beside you is troubled?
7:01 And they're eating cause they see you eating, but it's evil for them, because they're not able to operate with deep understanding and and faith.
7:10 They're destroying their conscience, and that's because of you or because of me.
7:15 It is good neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine.
7:19 Nor anything whereby your brother stumbles, or is offended or is made weak.
7:25 That is the higher priority.
7:28 We, we can withdraw.
7:29 We don't have to do something, even though it's our right.
7:33 We're not gonna do something and then it causes a brother to stumble.
7:39 Do you have faith?
7:40 This is, it's amazing.
7:42 Whatever is going on in Rome, something very similar was going on in Corinth.
7:47 Whatever was happening in Corinth, something very similar is happening here in Rome.

7:51 Do you have faith?

7:52 Yeah, we all have knowledge.

7:54 And you believe it's fine, it's no problem.

7:56 Do you have faith?

7:57 Have it to yourself before God.

8:00 Happy is he that condemns not himself in that thing which he allows.

8:04 So great that you can have this meat, you know, it's nothing, have it privately.

8:09 You don't need to have it publicly.

8:13 And he that doubts is damned if he eats.

8:16 Because he doesn't eat a faith, for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

8:21 I think that's a passage that we're familiar with, but again, it's in the context of meat sacrifice to idols, where one can eat in faith that this is not a problem, but the person right beside them is eating, but they're not eating in faith.

8:34 And for them it's a problem.

8:35 It's a big problem.

8:36 They're destroying their conscience, and they're stumbling, and they could fall out.

8:43 We then, that are strong, ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and get another very popular passage.

8:49 It's in the context of meat sacrificed to idols.

8:53 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves.

8:58 Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.

9:03 Edification, edification, edification.

9:07 Paul, is it OK for me, for me to eat meat sacrificed to idols?

9:11 It's fine.

9:12 The bigger picture is, is it edifying?

9:15 That's the question you should be asking me.

9:17 Am I edifying my brother if I eat meat sacrificed idols?

9:20 And if the answer is no, you're destroying your brother, then don't eat it.

9:25 For even Christ didn't please himself.

9:27 He's God.

9:28 He's the Creator.

9:29 Even he didn't please himself.

9:30 But as it is written, the reproaches of them that reproached you fell on me.

9:36 For whatsoever things were written before time, he says, were written for our learning.

9:41 Same thing that he said.

9:43 To Corinth regarding the ancient Israelites.

9:47 Follow Christ, follow me as I follow Christ.

9:51 Don't follow the ancient Israelites.

9:53 For what things were written before by Moses were written, Moses didn't write it for them, for Moses didn't write this down for the people that he that he knew were going to die.

10:04 He wrote it down knowing they were going to die, or that they died for us.

10:11 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we, through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

10:20 So it's very maybe frustrating for me.

10:23 It's a lovely meal.

10:24 I'm not gonna eat it because of my brother that's there with me, and I know it's a problem for them.

10:30 So I'm gonna forgo it.

10:32 I'm exercising patience.

10:34 But I'm being comforted by the scriptures at the same time.

10:40 Now, the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus.

10:49 This is, this is the same message he's giving to Corinth.

10:52 Be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, all of you together.

11:02 It's all about glorifying God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

11:07 Wherefore receive you one another.

11:10 As Christ also received us to the glory of God, so fairly long passage in Romans, but I wanted to read it all.

11:18 Because whatever was happening in Corinth, something very similar was happening in Rome.

11:23 And I think it just helps clarify what Paul is saying to the brethren in Corinth.

11:29 Coming back now to what we read in 1 Corinthians 10, just to wrap up the chapter.

11:36 If any man say unto you, this is offered in sacrifice unto idols.

11:39 So they've invited you to dinner, and then they make it known to you, this meat was sacrificed to idols.

11:46 Do not eat it for his sake that showed it.

11:48 So don't go into the temple where the ritual is taking place, and don't participate in that.

11:54 There's a spiritual dimension to it, believe me, you don't want to be a part of that.

11:58 If somebody is inviting you to dinner, privately, go, if you feel inclined to go, go.

12:04 And don't ask any questions.

12:06 You don't need to know it's the same if you buy it in the marketplace.

12:09 Don't ask any questions, just buy the meat and eat it.

12:11 You're invited to dinner, eat the meat.

12:14 Don't ask, was this sacrificed idols?

12:17 But if they tell you that it was sacrificed to idols, don't eat it.

12:22 Because you're constantly thinking about edification and and being a representative and an ambassador of the kingdom.

12:31 So don't eat it for his sake that showed it, and for conscience sake, for the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.

12:37 Conscience, I say, not yours.

12:40 But of the other, for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?

12:44 Well, we saw in Romans why.

12:47 For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that which I give thanks?

12:53 Well, whether therefore you eat or drink, whatever you do, as we saw his edification to the Romans, do all to the glory of God.

13:04Let's all come together, and all of our decisions are to edify one another, and in one voice to glorify God together, and let's not have these divisions over lust.

13:16Don't give any offense.

13:19Neither to the Jews nor to the Gentiles, nor to the Church of God.

13:23So there's all these considerations that we have to be examples.

13:28We have to be ambassadors, we have to be representatives and not give unnecessary offense.

13:34Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit.

13:39But the profit of many that they may be saved.

13:44This is the higher level way of operating.

13:48So there's a lower level, yes, you have a right.

13:52And, and you're right, your knowledge is correct.

13:55But that's lower level.

13:57Higher level is edification, edification, edification.

14:03So then, this passage, as I said before, chapter 10.

14:08should really begin in verse 24 of chapter 9, and then run all the way through to verse 1 of chapter 11, where he ends this whole passage then, having given him given himself as an example in chapter 9.

14:24And then really driving the point home in chapter 10, he says, be you followers of me.

14:33Even as I also am of Christ.

14:36And this is in the context of meat sacrificed to idols.

14:41And what he said to the Romans.

14:44That even Christ himself didn't please himself.

14:48He, as the Creator came to God and he did not please himself.

14:53And Paul is saying, that's the example that I follow.

14:57I don't look to please myself.

14:59I don't look to satisfy my desires.

15:01I'm constantly like Christ, thinking about building up the body.

15:07And so Follow this example.

15:09So with, so this is the ultimate answer now.

15:12Is it OK for us to eat meat sacrificed idols?

15:16Whole lot of reasoning to bring them along and help them understand.

15:20And the answer is, be you followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

15:27So that is chapter 10.