

# 1 Corinthians Encore!



# Divided Loyalties (1-4)

- Of Paul?
- Of Apollos?
- Of Cephas?  
(Peter)



# Divided Loyalties (1-4)

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Is Christ  
Divided?

# Divided Loyalties (1-4)

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- Problem – Human wisdom

Answer – “The wisdom of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but for us which are saved, it is the power of God.”

1 Cor. 1:18

# Division Among Brethren

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Theme (11):

- Display the unity of the Lord's table

# Context of ancient secular world

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- Guests of different rank were served different dishes and wines of different qualities, according to their respective dignities.
  - David E. Garland, 1 Corinthians, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003), 543.

# Division among the brethren

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**CLIQUES**

# Beauty in Unity (12)

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## 1. Spiritual Reality

I recognize that I am part of a unified body.

## 2. Spiritual Attitude

I regard all believers and our gifts as equally essential.





“The city of fornication & prostitution”

“*Corinthiazesthai*”  
= “to live a Corinthian life””

## Dealing with Immorality (5-6)

- The case of incest

Paul: He must be expelled  
(disciplined)

- Abstain from sexual  
immorality

# Till Death Do Us Part (7)

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- 1 Cor 7:10-16 :

Faithfully preserve the “one-flesh” marriage relationship that God has instituted.

# Till Death Do Us Part

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- "When the time came, the decision was firm. It took no great calculation. It was a matter of integrity. Had I not promised, 42 years before, 'in sickness and in health . . . till death do us part'?"

# Till Death Do Us Part

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- "This was no grim duty to which I stoically resigned, however. It was only fair. She had, after all, cared for me for almost four decades with marvelous devotion; now it was my turn. And such a partner she was! If I took care of her for 40 years, I would never be out of her debt,"

# Till Death Do Us Part

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- “...I have been startled by the response to the announcement of my resignation. Husbands and wives renew marriage vows, pastors tell the story to their congregations...”

# Till Death Do Us Part



- “It was a mystery to me, until a distinguished oncologist, who lives constantly with dying people, told me, ***“Almost all women stand by their men; very few men stand by their women.”*** Perhaps people sensed this contemporary tragedy and somehow were helped by a simple choice I considered the only option...”

# Till Death Do Us Part

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- “My imprisonment turned out to be a delightful liberation to love more fully than I had ever known. We found the chains of confining circumstances to be, no instruments of torture, but bonds to hold us closer...”



# Till Death Do Us Part



- “...But there was even greater liberation. It has to do with God’s love. No one ever needed me like Muriel, and no one ever responded to my efforts to totally as she. It’s the nearest thing I’ve experienced on a human plane to what my relationship with God was designed to be: God’s unfailing love poured out in constant care of helpless me.”

# Till Death Do Us Part

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- *On how he felt after his wife died:*

*“Grief. For fifty-five years she was flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone. So it’s like a ripping out of my flesh and –deeper–my very bones....”*

# Till Death Do Us Part

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- *On how he felt after his wife died:*

*“...But there is also profound gratitude. For ten years I’ve delighted in recalling happy memories. I still do. No regrets. Gratitude.”*

# To Marry or Not to Marry? (7)

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I. Singles are free to marry or remain unmarried:

- You should not consider marriage to be sinful.
- You should consider all relevant circumstances.

II. Widows are free to marry or remain unmarried:

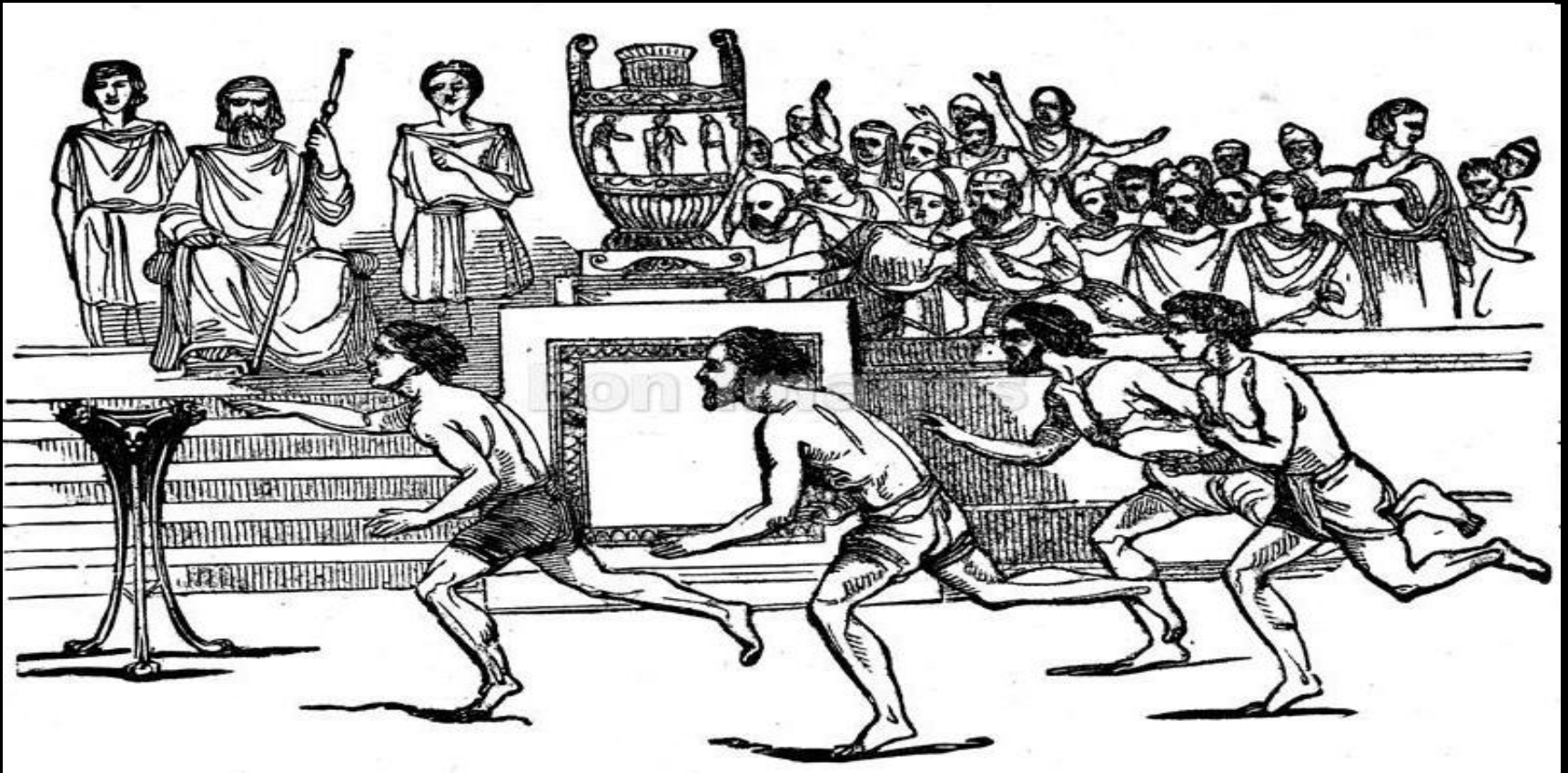
- You are free to marry anyone who is a believer.
- You are free to remain as you are.

# Food offered to idols (8-10)





# Isthmian Games







# Context: Votive vessels

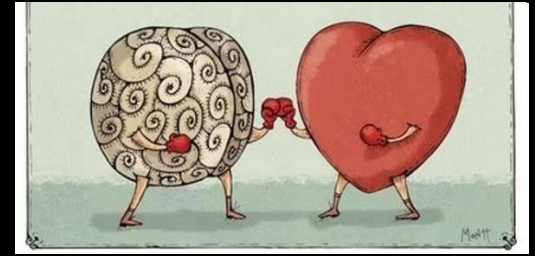
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# Context:

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- *Papyrus Oxyrhynchus* 1484:

“Apollonius requests you to dine at the table of the Lord Serapis on the occasion of the coming of age of his brothers in the temple of Thoeris.”

- *P. Oxy.* 1755:

“Apion invites you to dine in the house of Serapis at the table of the Lord Serapis on the 13th at 9 o’clock.”

# Food offered to idols (8-10)

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- Food is amoral, but idolatry is not!
- Don't stumble i.e. "trip up" your weaker brother to:
  - Cause him to offend his own conscience
  - Cause him to go back into idolatry

# Conscience & Offence

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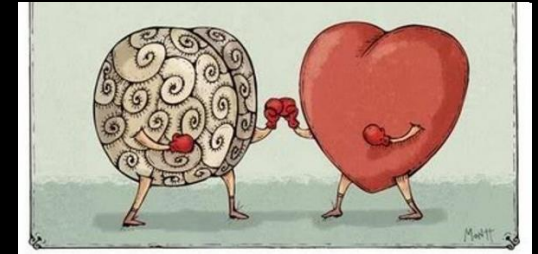


- Can I eat food without asking if it was offered to idols?

Yes

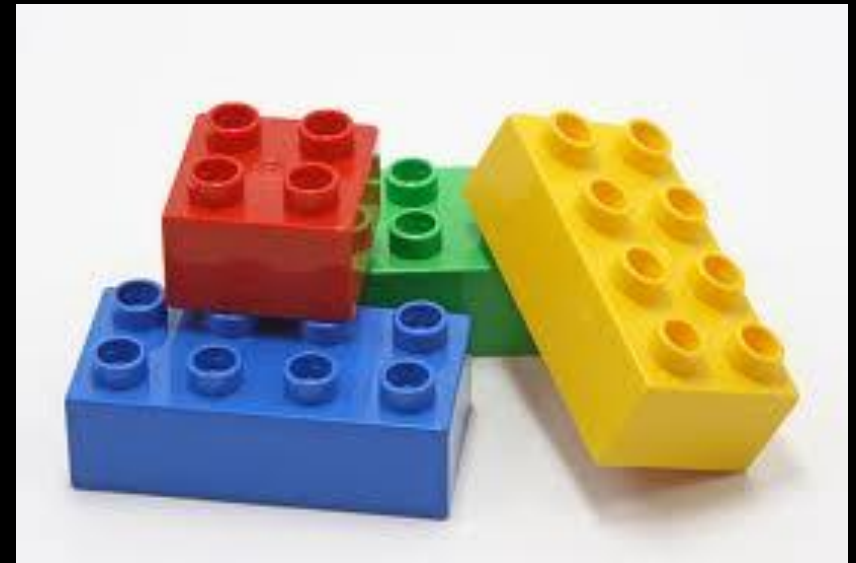
- Can I knowingly eat food offered to idols?  
No, if it risks unbeliever misunderstanding the gospel, or brother returning to idolatry.

# Knowledge vs love



1 Cor 8:1

Knowledge puffs up but love builds up



# Love must guide application of knowledge

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Eric Liddell winning  
the 400m at the  
1924 Paris Olympics

***“Head back,  
heart forward”***

# The Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts (12-14)

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Feb 17 – The Holy Spirit: Who, What, Why?

Feb 24 – The Holy Spirit: When, Where, How?

Mar 10 – Spiritual Gifts: Beauty in Diversity

Mar 17 – Spiritual Gifts: Beauty in Unity

April 7, 14, May 5 – Love: The #1 Channel of Gifts

May 19, June 2 – Tongues and Prophecy

June 23 – You asked for it! Summary

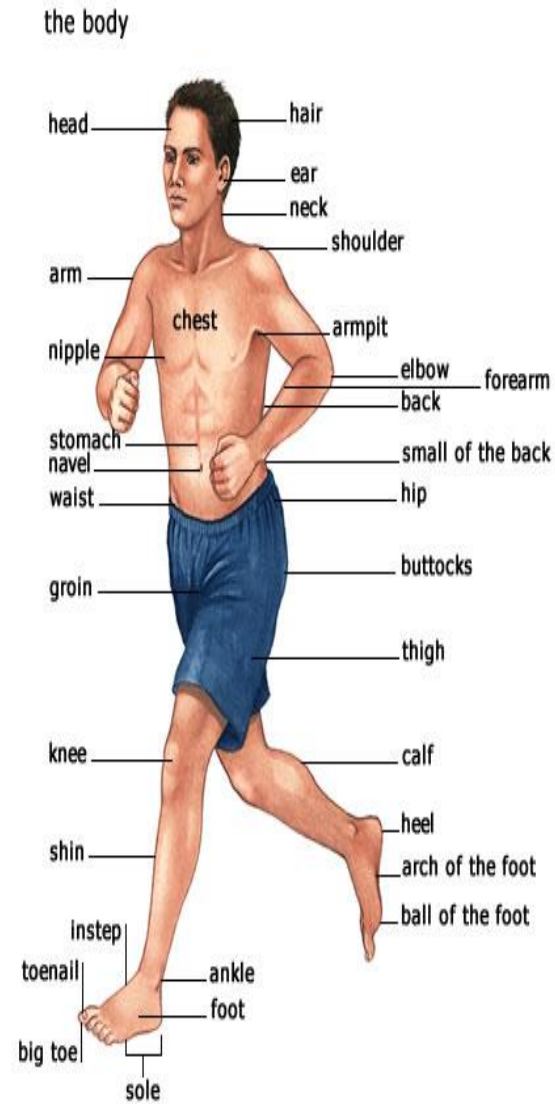


Photo: ifesystemschiropractic.com

Photo: oxforddictionariesonline.com

# Tongues: Why the Confusion?

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- Spiritual Gift of Tongues

= Ability to speak an  
identifiable language  
you did not learn.



# Tongues: Why the Confusion?

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Theme

Tongues:  
Seek to edify, not to confuse!

# Tongues: Why the Confusion?

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1. The gift of tongues is inferior for edification of church (1-5).
2. The gift of tongues is to be exercised only with interpretation (6-19).
3. The gift of tongues potentially confuses everyone, even unbelievers (20-25).
4. The gift of tongues is to be exceptionally used in church under strict rules (26-33).

# Prophecy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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■ 1 Cor. 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

# Corinth – like Singapore!

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New Series of Sunday messages by Pastor Joshua Wong this August/September.

# LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL!

In busy Singapore , the pressures of life often rob us of the joy of life in Christ. The truth is that Christ defeated death, man's final enemy, and therefore life is beautiful! Hear what God's Word says about the beautiful life and applications to hot button issues of suicide, wills, and the advanced medical directive. Catch a glimpse of heaven and our future "heavenly bodies," and return back to earth as the Bible cheers us on to live the beautiful Christian life!

- August    11 - The Gospel Of Life (1 Cor. 15:1-28)  
              18 - Preparing For Heaven (1 Cor. 15:29-34)  
              25 - Will I Recognise You In Heaven? (1 Cor. 15:35-49)
- Sept.        01 - Victory Over Death! (1 Cor. 15:50-58)

Come Join Us! **More info at [www.ppcc.org.sg](http://www.ppcc.org.sg)**





A close-up photograph of a single, vibrant green leaf emerging from a mound of dark, rich soil. The leaf is positioned on the left side of the frame, pointing upwards and slightly to the right. The soil is dark brown and has a fine, granular texture. The background is a soft-focus extension of the soil, creating a sense of depth. The entire image is enclosed within a white double-line border.

# The Gospel of Life!

- Changes my past
- Enables my present
- Guarantees my future



I will recognize you  
in heaven!

1 Cor. 15: 35-49



# Victory over death!



1 Cor. 15:50-58

# Curtain Closes

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- 1 Cor. 16: 22-24

If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema (Accursed)

Maranatha (Lord, come!).

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

My love be with you all in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

# 1 Corinthians Encore!

