

SERMON REFLECTIONS

To eat or not to eat?

1 Corinthians 8:1-13, 10:18-22 | 22 September 2024
| Rev Dr Aaron Tay

Reflection Questions

1. 1 Corinthians 8 shares two biblical principles about whether we can eat food offered to idols.

What are these two principles?

Have you been asked to eat food offered to ancestors, deities or spirits? Or participated in a religious ritual (perhaps during a non-Christian funeral)? What did you do? Why?

Some of us may not have been asked to participate in a religious ritual, but have you been asked to do something which you felt (spiritually) uncomfortable with? What was it and what did you do?

2. *“Now concerning food sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes one conceited, but love edifies people. If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.”*

Discuss 1 Corinthians 8:1-3 with regards to eating food offered to idols (OR in our engagement with practices/cultures of the world or other religions). Consider further what these three verses mean to our spiritual life in general – with regards to knowledge and love.

Our Vision

To be disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Mission

We exist to make disciples who love God, love one another and love the lost



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3. In the sermon, Pastor Aaron mentioned about the Pope's visit to Singapore (and whether there are serious theological differences between the Roman Catholic church and the Methodist, or Baptist, or Assembly of God church), and also the world's current fascination with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Singapore's current emphasis on mental health.

Are there questions you would like to ask your DG (to discuss) connected to spiritual matters or current affairs, which you would like to know Christian principles/perspectives to understand/engage better?

4. *"Everything [non-sinful] is permissible for me but not everything is beneficial"* (1 Corinthians 6:12)

Can you give examples of things that are permissible for us but not beneficial to us or others?

5. 1 Corinthians 10 gives a reason why we should reconsider using our freedom to do anything that might not be clearly sinful but may not be beneficial to us: when we do things that may lead us to "be participants with demons" – things that are connected with non-Christian spiritual powers, that is.

In the sermon, the following pop culture issues/activities are listed as those that a significant number of Christians feel could stumble some Christians or are connected with non-Christian spiritual powers:

- Tattoos
- Mindfulness
- Yoga
- Martial arts

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- Clubbing
- Certain types of dressing
- Fantasy stories
- Certain movies or games (computer/board) which are sexually explicit, too violent or linked with the occult
- Embracing a popular Western belief that LGBTQ/same-sex marriage should be normative

Choose one or more of the above issues and discuss how a Christian should engage with it and whether a Christian should be involved in it.

6. Discuss areas where the Christian has compromised or where the church has not stood firm against. You may quote examples from Singapore churches, or churches around the world.
7. Let us pray for spiritual discernment and courage so that we can be in the world but not of the world (John 17:14-16).

Missions Focus:

Scan and watch



Video: Pray for Taiwan

Pray for Taiwan

Population:
23.9 million

**No. of Unreached
People Groups:** 8

Major Faith:
Ethnic Religions
(61%)

Pray

1. Spiritual breakthrough. Sending of local missionaries to the unreached in Taiwan.
2. Strong local churches & believers to be salt & light in society.
3. Taiwanese nationals living in Singapore to experience God's love.

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Bedok
Methodist
Church

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