

# *I Need a Spiritual Family*

## “A Spiritual Family Builds Each Other Up”

### 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1 – June 8, 2014

#### Our Sermon Series

<b>I Need a Spiritual Family</b> <i>A Study of the Book of First Corinthians</i>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Message Title</i>	<i>Bible Text</i>
April 6	A Spiritual Family Resolves Conflict	1 Corinthians 1:1-17
April 13	A Spiritual Family Embraces the Cross	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
April 27	A Spiritual Family Embraces the Spirit	1 Corinthians 2:1-3:4
May 4	A Spiritual Family Pursues Rewards Together	1 Corinthians 3:5-4:21
May 18	A Spiritual Family Deals with Sexual Immorality	1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:9-20
May 25	A Spiritual Family Does Not Sue Each Other	1 Corinthians 6:1-8
June 1	A Spiritual Family Embraces Marriage & Singleness	1 Corinthians 7:1-40
June 8	A Spiritual Family Builds Each Other Up	1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1
June 15	A Spiritual Family Worships Together	1 Corinthians 11:2-34
June 22	A Spiritual Family Uses Their Spiritual Gifts	1 Corinthians 12:1-14:40
May 11	A Spiritual Family Loves Each Other (Mother's Day)	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
April 19/20	A Spiritual Family Believes in Heaven (Easter)	1 Corinthians 15:1-58
June 29	A Spiritual Family Gives	1 Corinthians 16:1-24
To get sermon-based small group discussion questions developed by Life Way specifically for these messages, please contact Christi Jeffries at <a href="mailto:cjeffries@whatisgrace.org">cjeffries@whatisgrace.org</a>		

**Summary of 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1** – Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up (8:1b). Even though we have certain rights, there will be times when God will have us give up those rights out of love for others (8:13).

- **Example #1:** If eating meat causes my brother to stumble, then I will refrain from eating meat (8:1-13).
- **Example #2:** If claiming my rights as an apostle (i.e. rights to a ministry salary) hinders the gospel, then I will not claim my rights (9:1-27).
- **Flee from idolatry** (10:1-22)
  - Illustration #1: Old Testament examples of idolatry (10:1-13)
  - Illustration #2: Communion = “participation with” – Don’t “participate with” demons (10:14-22)
- **Back to Example #1:** Specific instructions on what to do when someone serves you meat (10:23-30).
- **Conclusion:** Do everything for God’s glory (10:31). Defer to others so that they may be saved (10:32-33). Imitate me as I imitate Christ (11:1).

#### Four Ways to Build Up the People in Your Life (1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1)

##### 1. Don’t be a **know-it-all**, rather be a **love-it-all** (8:1-3)

- The major theme to today’s Scripture is: “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up” (8:1b).
- The first example here concerns meat sacrificed to idols.
- Warren Wiersbe: “There were two sources of meat in the ancient world: the regular market (where the prices were higher) and the local temples (where meat from the sacrifices were always available). The strong members of the church realized that idols could not contaminate food, so they saved money by purchasing the cheaper meat available from the temples. This offended weaker Christians. Many of them had been saved out of pagan idolatry, and they could not understand why their fellow believers would want to have anything to do with meat sacrificed to idols.”
- Proper knowledge = All food is clean. You can eat anything (8:4-8)
- Proper love = Not taking any action that will cause a fellow believer to stumble (8:9-13)
- **Application #1** – With God’s help and power, I am going to love other people well by deferring my rights and freedoms as God leads me

<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Love Builds Up</i>
All food is clean. I can eat anything I want.	I’m going to refrain from eating meat sacrificed to idols when it causes a fellow believer to stumble.
I am free to drink alcohol socially as long as I don’t get drunk (John 2:1-11; 1 Timothy 5:23; Eph. 5:18).	I choose not to drink around anyone who is in recovery. Grace Fellowship chooses not to have any alcohol at any Grace Fellowship events (including using grape juice for Communion).
I think Grace Fellowship has the correct stances on persuasion level issues (like water baptism, supernatural spiritual gifts, women in ministry, predestination, etc.)	We choose not to break fellowship or exclude those who disagree on these issues (as they are persuasion level issues).
It is my agreed upon role to mow the grass and Lisa’s to do the laundry.	I serve Lisa by doing laundry sometimes. She has mowed the grass sometimes.
I have my rights and needs in our marriage.	I choose to defer my rights and needs.
I have my rights and needs in our family.	I choose to defer my rights and needs.

- Side note about 2 trees (Genesis 2:9,15-17; 3:1-13; Revelation 2:7; 22:2,14)

<i>Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil</i>	<i>Tree of Life</i>
Know right and wrong. Eyes open so can rely on self.	Innocent trust in God.
Leads to death.	Leads to life.
Shame: want to cover up.	Naked and unashamed.
I should.	I want to.
Pharisees	Jesus

## 2. Be **incarnational**: Enter into other people's worlds (9:19-23)

- David Prior: "Paul wanted, like his Master, to lay down his life. He had learnt that happiness lies more in giving than in receiving. In these verses, he gives a few examples of what it meant for him, a wealthy, educated, religious Jew to make himself a slave to all. He had sacrificed matters of racial integrity, religious sensitivity, and conscience. He had done that with one goal: *that I might win the more* (v.19). His fundamental philosophy was to discover the methods which combined the greatest integrity with the greatest impact: *I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more*. There is a gold mine of evangelistic methodology in that single sentence."
- Some people call this incarnational ministry. Jesus was incarnate as He left heaven, came to earth, and became one of us (John 1:14). Jesus entered into our world, yet He never sinned (Hebrews 4:15). Likewise, God calls us to "enter into the world" of the people we are trying to minister to.
- Application #2 – With God's help and power and without compromising Scriptural integrity, I am going to "enter into the world" of some people in my life by...
  - ☐ Hanging out with them in their "neighborhood"
  - ☐ Listening to their music with them
  - ☐ Doing what they like to do (sports, movies, games, reading)
  - ☐ Learning their "language"
  - ☐ Other
- Hudson Taylor – Incarnational Pioneer

## 3. Be an **"AA sponsor"**: Be the person that someone can call when they need help being talked off the ledge of temptation (10:13)

- I believe that many times the God-given "way of escape" is the help of people in our lives.
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** – *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!*

- Cloud and Townsend: "Biblical growth is designed to include other people as God's instruments. To be truly biblical as well as truly effective, the growth process must include the Body of Christ."
- Sponsorship in Alcoholics Anonymous: "An alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery program shares that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is attempting to attain or maintain sobriety through A.A."
- Application #3 – With God's help and power, I am going to...
  - ☐ Ask a same gender friend to "sponsor" me in my journey to have victory over my sin habits.
  - ☐ Be a "sponsor" to a same gender friend who needs (ask for) help in their journey over sin habits.

## 4. **Live for God** (10:31-11:1)

- Nothing encourages and builds another person up more than when we genuinely and humbly walk with God. When we truly walk with God, then others are edified and want to imitate our faith walk (11:1).
- In Paul's case, living for the glory of God meant...
  - ☐ Not eating meat sacrificed to idols (8:1-13; 10:23-30)
  - ☐ Not taking a salary for his work as an apostle (9:1-18)
  - ☐ Engaging in incarnational ministry (9:19-23)
  - ☐ Running the race of ministry like an athlete training for the Olympics with discipline and self-control (9:24-27)
  - ☐ Learning from the mistakes of the Old Testament characters and fleeing from idolatry (10:1-22)
- Application #4 – With God's help and power, I want to live for God by...
  - ☐ Seeking Him first (Matthew 6:33)
  - ☐ Loving Him the most (Matthew 22:37-38)
  - ☐ Loving other people well (Matthew 22:39)
  - ☐ Dedicating my life to the fulfillment of His Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)
  - ☐ Doing everything that I do for His glory and fame (1 Corinth 10:31)
- Perspectives on the World Christian Movement – Amazing 16-week class starting Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. To find out more, go to [www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org) and click on "Classes" and click on "Katy, TX" under Fall 2014.