

# TAKEAWAY

## Real Life Church

### FREEDOM MARINATED IN LOVE

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019

#### INTRODUCTION

Continuing in our journey through 1 Corinthians, we find Paul circling back to a topic that was pretty important 2,000 years ago – eating food sacrificed to idols – but possibly less relevant today. What is relevant, is working out how to live out our Christian faith in a multi-cultural, multi-faith environment, how to build up a church community with people who prioritise their values differently to us and how to find the balance between giving up our rights for the good of others, and not becoming a doormat for everyone to wipe their feet on.

#### READ

1 Corinthians 10:14-33

#### DISCUSS

1. The Corinthians are very aware of the freedom that Christ has given them and see it as giving them the right to do anything. How do you understand freedom in Christ?
2. What rights are important to you? Who are you prepared to give them up for?
3. Paul talks about two different groups of people. In v23 he talks about not everything being beneficial, and the original word includes this sense of not being good for the whole church

community. Where do you perceive we may need to give up our 'rights' for the good of the church? Is there something you feel particularly challenged by in that?

4. Paul then continues to talk about doing good for the 'the other'. The Greek word was heteros – meaning more than just the others, but someone different, or opposite or outside. A little like the story of the good Samaritan who gave up his right to get to the end of his journey in peace to stop and help the Jewish man who'd been attacked. Who do you think the 'other' is in our culture and context?

5. Are there areas of your life that you hold onto a little too tightly?

6. Taking care of ourselves is important, resting and taking Sabbath is a commandment, how do we find the line between giving up our rights and overdoing it, or allowing people to take advantage in an unhelpful way? How can your group support each other in this?

#### PRAY

Why not pray together for the discernment and courage to know when to give up your rights and when to protect them and share any difficult situations you're facing right now?

