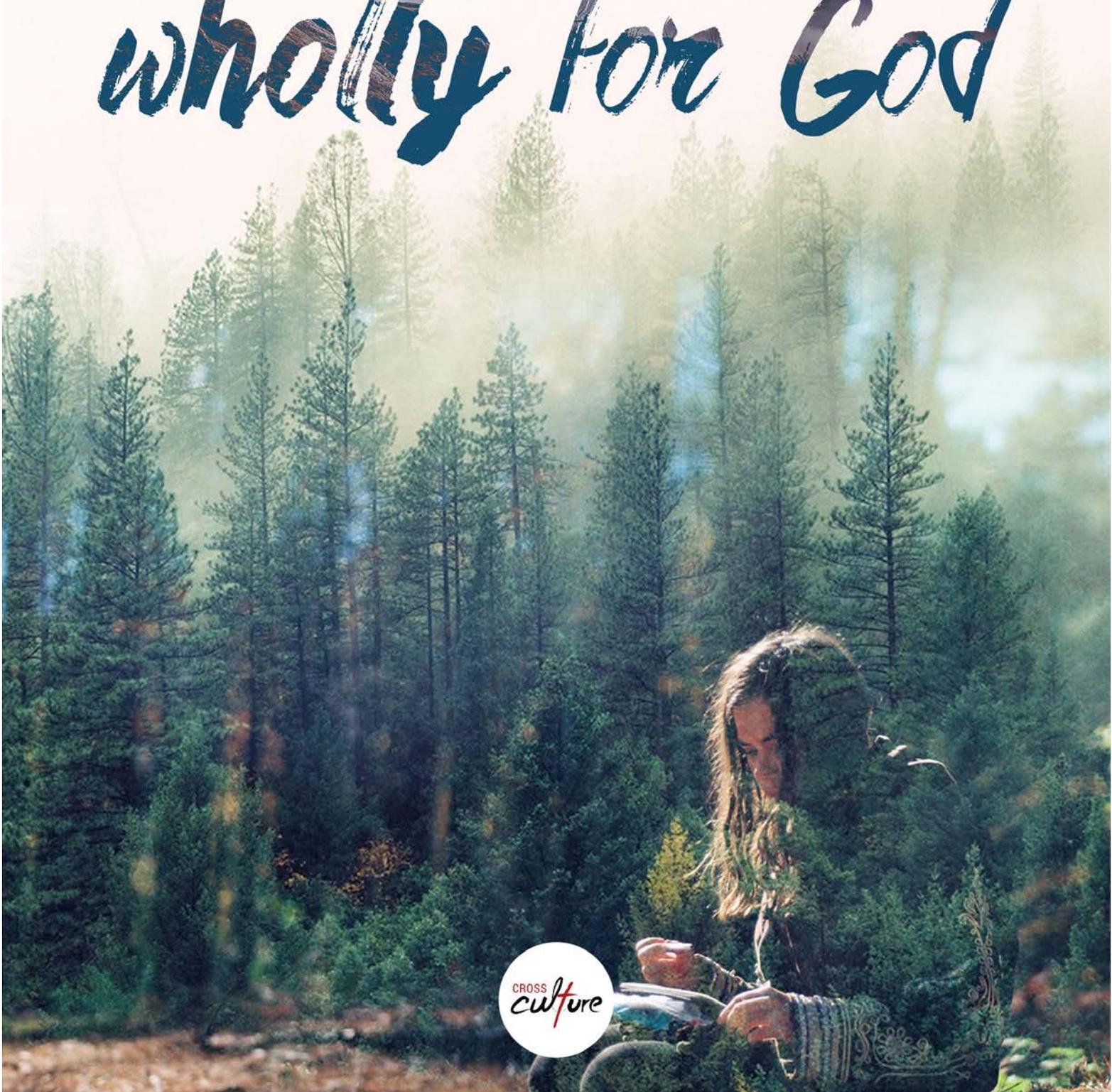


1 CORINTHIANS 8 - 11

wholly for God



INTRODUCTION

The Corinthian Church was imperfect and flawed. In a general sense then, CrossCulture has much in common. We are sinners saved by the grace of God, trying to live holy lives by the power of His Spirit. But we are still capable of believing the wrong things and acting accordingly. We still sin.

In their struggle, the Corinthian Church was asking questions that have been asked by Christians throughout the ages: Now that I am a Christian, how should I act? What does the Christian life look like? Is it any different to the lives of people who don't follow Jesus? What does 'holy' look like? What do I have to give up? What do I have to gain? As a Christian, what do I do with my desires? My desires for say, a romantic relationship, a close friend, significant work, a break, a better body, fame, a family, sex, something to worship, or a spiritual presence to help me make choices. Are they all bad? Are they all good? How should being a Christian impact the way that I think about myself and others, the choices I make and the behaviour that flows out of them?

The Corinthian Church experienced a tension between freedom in Christ and the obligation to be holy, or wholly committed to God in body and spirit. Stark divisions were present in the church and there was pressure from external belief systems to accept all kinds of immoral practices and religious extremism. Some desired to place legalistic standards upon the lives

of believers: 'Don't eat that.' 'Don't get married.' 'Break all ties with society.' Others flaunted their perceived freedom and knowledge of Christ, participating in immoral activities and claiming it has no significance to God what we do with our bodies and our time on earth. The challenges were varied, all-around and so very similar to what we face today.

The letter of 1 Corinthians is the Word of God calling out to us in the desert of modern, secular, messed-up society and its accompanying values. In the face of the pressures and conflicting messages we face, Christ would have us experience true freedom and life to the full, expressing itself powerfully through the Gospel and visibly in the local Church.

From January to February we will continue our series investigating chapters 8 to 11. We hope and pray that as you study the Word of God, you will be challenged in your love for Him, become confident that you are His child and grow in your willingness to forsake sinful practices and beliefs and embrace a life living wholly for God.

STUDIES BREAKUP

- Study 1 **The Balance of Knowledge & Love in the Body of Christ** (1 Corinthians 8:1-13)
- Study 2 **For the Sake of the Gospel** (1 Corinthians 9:1-14)
- Study 3 **Go Hard for the Gospel** (1 Corinthians 9:15-27)
- Study 4 **Take Heed, Lest You Fall** (1 Corinthians 10:1-13)
- Study 5 **He is Jealous of our Worship** (1 Corinthians 10:14-22)
- Study 6 **Soli Deo Gloria** (1 Corinthians 10:23-33)
- Study 7 **God and Jesus, Man and Woman** (1 Corinthians 11:1-16)
- Study 8 **The Unity of the Lord's Supper** (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

COMA QUESTIONS FOR THE EPISTLES

Context

- What can you learn about the person or situation to which the letter is written?
- What clues are there about the author and his circumstances?
- What was the main point of the passage immediately before this one? Are there logical or thematic connections to the passage you are reading?

Observation

- Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there key connecting words (for, therefore, but, because) that indicate the logical flow of the passage?
- What is the main point or points? What supporting points does the author make?
- What surprises are there in the flow of the argument?

Meaning

- How does this text relate to other parts of the book?
- How does the passage relate to Jesus?
- What does this teach you about God?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

Application

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude you need to change?
- How does this passage call on you to change the way you live?