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Nota di contenuto	CONTENTS; Preface; Abbreviations; Introduction; THE SOCIAL MEANING OF EATING IDOL FOOD; 1. The Nature and Occasions of Eating Idol Food; 2. The Social Significance of Meals; 3. Some Implications for the Problem of Idol Food in Corinth; Chapter 2; THE BACKGROUND TO PAUL'S ATTITUDE TO IDOL FOOD IN EARLY JUDAISM; 1. The Jewish Scriptures; 2. Jewish Apocryphal Writings; 3. Jewish Pseudepigraphical Writings; 4. Qumran; 5. Philo; 6. Josephus; 7. Rabbinic Writings; 8. Pagan Authors on Jewish Attitude; 9. Implications for our Understanding of Paul's Attitude to Idol Food EXEGETICAL INVESTIGATION OF 1 CORINTHIANS 8.1-11.11. Literary Integrity of 1 Corinthians 8.1-11.1; 2. The Nature of the Problem in Corinth and Paul's Response; 3. An Alternative Understanding of Paul's Approach to £i5coA,66\)Ta; 4. Conclusion; THE EARLY CHRISTIANS' UNDERSTANDING OF PAUL'S ATTITUDE TO IDOL FOOD; 1. The State of Research; 2. Assumptions and General Remarks; 3. The Book of Acts; 4. Revelation; 5. 6 Ezra; 6. The Apostolic Fathers; 7. Pagan References to Early Christian Attitudes toward Idol Food; 8. The Apologists; 9. Irenaeus; 10. Marcion; 11. The Gnostics; 12. Tertullian

13. Minucius Felix; 14. Clement of Alexandria; 15. Origen; 17. The Apostolic Constitutions; 18. Jewish Christianity; 19. Later Patristic Writers; 20. Conclusions; SUMMARY AND CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS; 1. Summary; 2. The Origins of Paul's Approach; 3. Concluding Hermeneutical Reflections; Appendix; EVALUATION OF SOME MAJOR STUDIES; Bibliography; Index of References; Index of Authors

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Sommario/riassunto

This historical and exegetical investigation strongly challenges the widely held view that Paul regarded idol food as a matter of indifference, to be avoided only for the sake of the spiritual health of the weak. An exhaustive treatment of early Christian material shows that early authors were deeply influenced by Paul's discussion in 1 Corinthians 8-10, and yet they were totally unaware of the subsequent traditional understanding that Paul regarded idol food as indifferent. Even those who advocated eating idol food did not once appeal to Paul's discussion for support. An alternative understand

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