

Scripture this week:

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹ Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ² If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. ⁴ Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷ However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Free in Christ to Live with Restraint

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Todd Chapman - September 12, 2021

1. **Too often “knowledge” begets arrogance.**
2. **“Knowing” the truth about God, about faith, is critical.**
3. **However, not all “know” meat offered to idols is impotent, and so insisting on eating it, may cause them spiritual harm.**
4. **Not considering the perspective of fellow Jesus-treasurers, insisting on freedoms we have in Christ, is sinning against them and Christ.**
5. **Therefore, we will happily forfeit the rights we have in Christ for the sake of our brothers and sisters.**

Notes:

Life Group Discussion Questions

Based on 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Reading the Text:

1. What is the '*knowledge*' that is puffing up some of the members in the church in Corinth according to vv. 1-6?
2. Paul writes in v. 8 that food is really not the key issue (as it relates to our relationship with God). So, then, what is the key issue according to Paul?
3. Why does Paul call a sin against our brother or sister, a sin against Christ (v.12)? In what way would this behavior be offensive to Christ?
4. Summarize the big idea of this passage.

Knowing the Full Picture:

5. What precedent does this teaching from Paul set for how believers deal with other believers around peripheral, or secondary, issues?
6. Read these other biblical passages. How do these ideas fit with what we've just read? Romans 14:20; 1 John 4:20; 1 Corinthians 5:11.

Living It Out:

7. How do we balance accommodating a brother or sister, and challenging a brother or sister to grow in light of the truth? In this case, we know that idols are not gods, and you ought to know that too!
8. Are we having these kinds of conversations surrounding contemporary issues? How are they going? Have they been mostly contentious or mostly loving?
9. What can we be doing as brothers and sisters in Christ to better communicate love to one another even when we disagree over secondary issues?