

# *I Corinthians*

## (17) When to Yield Your Freedom

1 Cor 8:1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But the man who loves God is known by God.

4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

7 But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall. NIV

### **The doctrinal *truth* about 'doubtful' things...8:1-6**

What was a specific issue the Corinthians asked Paul? 8:1a, 4a What were some issues? 8:7

---

Overall summary; how does Paul answer this question? 8:1-13; 9:1-10:13; 10:14-11:1

---

What is the difference between *knowing truth* and *knowing God*? 8:1b-3; Is.5:21; ITim.1:5-7

---

Does this imply that knowledge of truth is unnecessary? Col.1:9; Rom.11:25; **Eph.4:11-16**

---

Summarize Paul's teaching in 8:4-6. See Ps.115:4-8; Rom.14:14, 22; ITim.1:17, 2:5

---

### **However, that's not the whole issue!...8:7-13**

While 8:4-6 (re eating meat sacrificed to idols) is true, what's also at play here? 8:7-8

---

How might we see similar issues in our church today?

---

What is the strong warning to the *mature believers*? 8:9; Rom.14:20-21; Gal.5:13; IPet.2:16

---

How does this stumbling block actually happen? 8:10; **Rom.14:13-23**

---

And what is the result for the weaker brother? 8:11 and for you (the stronger one)? 8:12

---

And what is Paul's inescapable conclusion? 8:13; **9:19-23** Application??

---

# *I Corinthians*

## (17) When to Yield Your Freedom

1 Cor 8:1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But the man who loves God is known by God.

4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

7 But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall. NIV

### **The doctrinal *truth* about 'doubtful' things...8:1-6**

What was a specific issue the Corinthians asked Paul? 8:1a, 4a What were some issues? 8:7

**Eating food sacrificed to idols? Not true 'gods', but maybe demonic? Old life for some...**

Overall summary; how does Paul answer this question? 8:1-13; 9:1-10:13; 10:14-11:1

**The doctrinal truth (8:1-13); Examples (9:1-10:13); Evangelism application (10:14-11:1).**

What is the difference between *knowing truth* and *knowing God*? 8:1b-3; Is.5:21; ITim.1:5-7

**Knowledge, by itself, produces pride (puffs up); Love (of God) humbles (knows very little).**

Does this imply that knowledge of truth is unnecessary? Col.1:9; Rom.11:25; **Eph.4:11-16**

**Absolutely NOT! Scripture places no premium on ignorance! Knowledge is necessary but-**

Summarize Paul's teaching in 8:4-6. See Ps.115:4-8; Rom.14:14, 22; ITim.1:17, 2:5

**Idols (so called gods) are nothing. There is only 1 Father, 1 Lord (Jesus), by whom we live!**

### **However, that's not the whole issue!...8:7-13**

While 8:4-6 (re eating meat sacrificed to idols) is true, what's also at play here? 8:7-8

**Not everyone knows this! Some believers recently saved from idolatry see this as sin.**

How might we see similar issues in our church today?

**Recent believers who have a background of Christian 'legalism'. Many unscriptural rules.**

What is the strong warning to the *mature believers*? 8:9; Rom.14:20-21; Gal.5:13; IPet.2:16

**Don't let the exercise of your freedom (in Christ) be a stumbling block to weaker brother!**

How does this stumbling block actually happen? 8:10; **Rom.14:13-23**

**Seeing your example the weaker brother follows you and violates his own conscience.**

And what is the result for the weaker brother? 8:11 and for you (the stronger one)? 8:12

**He sins against Christ (via his conscience). Mature sins against brother and Christ!**

And what is Paul's inescapable conclusion? 8:13; **9:19-23** Application??

**I'll avoid this abuse of my freedom at any cost! What are you yielding for someone else?**