

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 **Food – Things Offered to Idols – Christian Liberty**

Knowledge puffs up – Love Edifies

¹ Now concerning things offered to idols:

We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. ² And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. ³ But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

Eating things Offered to Idols – Idols vs. God

⁴ Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

⁷ However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

⁸ But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

Stumbling Block in Liberty

⁹ But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? ¹¹ And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

¹² But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

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Facts Revealed:

- ✚ The Corinthians had asked Paul about things sacrificed to idols.
- ✧ The message Paul had taken to all the Gentile Churches was the message from the eldership in Jerusalem:

Acts 15:23-29

²³ They wrote this letter by them:

The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,

To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:

Greetings.

²⁴ Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, 'You must be circumcised and keep the law'--to whom we gave no such commandment-- ²⁵ it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We have

therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth.

²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than **these necessary things**: ²⁹ that you **abstain from things offered to idols**, from **blood**, from **things strangled**, and from **sexual immorality**. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

Farewell.

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Knowledge puffs up – Love Edifies [1 Corinthians 8:1-2]

- ✧ In addressing problems in the Church, the attitude is most important.
- ✧ To use knowledge, one must be motivated by love for it to be effective. [1 Corinthians 13:2]
- ✧ God knows those who love Him.

Eating things Offered to Idols – Idols vs. God [1 Corinthians 8:3-8]

- ✧ There is one God, The Father originator of all things, and one Lord Jesus Christ through whom all things were made and exist. [1 Chronicles 29:14, Isaiah 44:24, Jeremiah 10:16, 15:19, John 1:1-2, Romans 11:36, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:10]
- ✧ Idols are nothing, though there are so many, and food offered to idols is perfectly good food.
- ✧ All do not have that knowledge, but are weak in conscience and are defiled by things offered to idols.
- ✧ Food does not commend us to God, and whether we eat or refrain from eating we are not better or worse.

Stumbling Block in Liberty [1 Corinthians 8:9-13]

- ✧ Beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.
- ✧ Because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?
- ✧ When you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.
- ✧ Let us therefore consider the conscience of the weaker brother and guard ourselves against anything that might make him stumble, in food or drink.