

Series "Called To Be Saints"
"Christian Liberty"
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Part-14

INSTRUCTION: THE REPLY TO THEIR QUESTIONS—7:1-16:12

- 1. Marriage—7 Divorce, singleness, remarriage, Christian & Non-Christians**
- 2. Food Offered To Idols—8 &10**
- 3. Personal Priorities – 9**

1 Corinthians 8-11:1 is dealing with **"Liberty"**

1 Corinthians 8 is dealing with **Liberty in Non-Essentials**

Question of Paul's day: Was it right to eat meat sacrificed to idols?

(We May Differ But Not Divide!)

Thought Of Our Passage: "Believers Possessing Knowledge Must Learn To Balance What They Know Through God's Love."

- 1. Verses 1-4 The Logical Principal**
- 2. Verses 5-8 The Spiritual Principal**
- 3. Verses 9-13 The Social Principal**

1. Verses 1-4 The Logical Principal

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now Context - Paul has just concluded **1 Corinthians 7** which dealt with questions regarding marriage, divorce, remarriage, and singleness

concerning things sacrificed to idols, (Next Question)

(Pagan) temples that offered meat sacrificed to idols, should or should not, is what the church wanted, but Paul does not give this, but principles! **This was an area of Christian liberty! Not Morals! Romans 14:1-15:13; Galatians 4:8-11**

1 Corinthians 10:25

"If a Christian eats meat offered to an idol is he or she participating in some way in the worship of that idol?"

Group #1 "Do Not Eat Group"

Group #2 "Nobody Can Tell Me What To Do"

we know that we all have knowledge. This is referring to the great wisdom that is available to believers that comes through a relationship with God.

1 Corinthians 1:5

Psalm 115:2-8

What good is knowledge if it does not help us in our conflicts?

Knowledge makes arrogant, (Weapon) *"knowledge puffs up"*
knowledge can produce pride; it makes you feel superior.

"Big Heads!" (Resulting From Knowledge we Need Humility & Love)

but love edifies. (Tool To Build Up) The love of God builds, love does not tear down. Love won't let us hurt others. **"Burning Hearts" Along With knowledge"**

"Big Heads!" or "Burning Hearts" can be the result of knowledge!

1 Corinthians 8:2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything,

The first evidence of true knowledge is the knowledge that you don't know everything!

Colossians 2:16-17

1 Corinthians 8:3 but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him. We need to recognize that God knows and still loves us (Sinners).

How a person lives determines if he loves God or not! **1 John 4:7-8**

1 Corinthians 8:4 Therefore – We have knowledge, but we don't know all things, remember in all our failures God loves each one of us!

we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, (Nonentity)

and that there is no God but one. Christianity is **Monotheistic** which means we worship one God. God is manifested in 3 persons.

Deuteronomy 6:4 the LORD is one! But the unity of God does not exclude the idea of a plurality of persons in the Godhead.

Doctrine of the Trinity - "Tri-unity" *"How one eternal God is both singular, and plural, how Father, Son, and Spirit are personally distinct yet essentially one... is more than we can know."*

Old Testament: "**Elohim**" is plural name for God.

Genesis 1:1 God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

New Testament: At the baptism of Jesus Christ: **Matthew 3:16-17**

The Affirmation For Baptism: **Matthew 28:19-20**

The New testament teaches that "One is Three and Three is One"
"Tri-unity"

2. Verses 5-8 The Spiritual Principal

1 Corinthians 8:5 Spiritual Reality Should Govern Our Decisions:

1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is but one God, He is speaking to Christians, this is a doctrine or teaching that is essential for true believers.
Deuteronomy 6:4

the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

John 14:6

1 Corinthians 8:7

Different Levels Of Spiritual Maturity: However not all men have this knowledge;

but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; Those in the church at Corinth that had come out of this idol worship.

conscience - *"to know with" a moral awareness that judges an action either right or wrong.*

Although the word "**Conscience**" does appear in the Old Testament, the Hebrew word is usually translated "**heart**" **1 Samuel 24:5 "Afterward... David's heart bothered him"**

1 Timothy 4:2

1 Corinthians 8:8; Romans 14:17

3. Verses – 9-13 The Social Principal

1 Corinthians 8:9 But take care

This is a warning to those with liberty!

Beware Of Offending Others: liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

"Describes an enemy that hides by the side of the road and throws rocks on the path to get others to fall or stumble"

1 Corinthians 8:10-11

**Jesus' Sacrificial/Death Was To Deliver Us From Sin.
Our Liberty Can't Lead Others Back Into Sin:**

1 Corinthians 8:12 Don't Hurt Others: And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, (Beat someone up!)

you sin against Christ. Notice that sinning against a person is also sinning against God. (Liberty gone too far)

1 Corinthians 8:13 Therefore? We have liberty but our freedom must not hurt others, we have freedom to not use freedom.

I will never eat meat again, (We have freedom to not use Our freedom because of love) **so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.**

Application:

- 1.** The Logical Principal. Through Jesus We Have Knowledge. The Knowledge Must Be Balanced By A Burning Heart Of Love.
- 2.** The Spiritual Principal. Believers Are In Different Levels In Maturity. We Are Not To Attempt To Change One Another.
- 3.** The Social Principal. We Are Not To Use Our Freedom To Hurt Others. We Are To Love Others. We Can Choose To Forgo Our Rights So That Others May Not Be Hurt.