

Sermon Notes & Discussion Questions for:
Gospel-Centered Freedom
1 Corinthians 8



Pastor Mark Jeschke

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THE ISSUE IN CORINTH

1. THE CULTURAL ISSUE

- A. EATING FOOD SACRIFICED TO IDOLS WAS THE SOCIAL NORM
- B. NEARLY ALL THE MEAT IN THE MARKETS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY SACRIFICED

2. THE HEART ISSUE – THREE PATHS

- A. LEGALISM = FAITH IN **MY WORKS**
- B. LICENSE = FAITH **WITHOUT WORKS**
- C. LIBERTY = GRACE THROUGH FAITH **UNTO GOOD WORKS**

THE INSTRUCTION FOR BELIEVERS

We know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (1 Corinthians 8:1-3)

“We should remember that while knowledge may make a man look big, it is only love that can make him grow to his full stature.” (JB PHILLIPS)

- 1. Knowledge that lacks love is characterized by **PHARISAICAL PRIDE**
- 2. Knowledge here on earth is **LIMITED AT BEST**
- 3. To love God means to be **KNOWN BY GOD**

But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.” (2 Timothy 2:19)

“True knowledge does not know... and knows it.” (Unknown)

THE IMPLICATIONS FOR TODAY

But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. (1 Corinthians 8:9)

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 John 3:16)

1 Corinthians 8 (ESV)

Food Offered to Idols

8 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.

Remember leaders: these are only suggested questions and ideas. Trust the Lord to guide and direct you, because He loves you, in any way the Spirit leads!