

1 CORINTHIANS

SEEING EVERY PART OF LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

11 Apr 2021

Chapter 8

Verse of the Day:

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

Review: Who, What, When, Where, Why?

What's Going On Here?

Having stated principles to help the Christians in Corinth decide for themselves whether or not to marry under their circumstances (chapter 7), Paul continues by applying the Christian freedom theme to another question asked of him: "May Christians eat foods offered to idols?" He distinguishes three types of Christians involved in the question: (1) those who have no scruples about eating such meat because they know an idol is nothing; (2) those who regard the practice as sinful and refrain from it; and (3) those who consider the practice sinful and so violate their consciences by joining others in eating such foods anyway. Paul pleads with the strong in faith to suspend their Christian freedom, lest by their eating of foods once offered to idols they offend the weak in faith and cause spiritual harm to brethren for whom Christ died.¹

<p>Food Offered to Idols</p> <p>8 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "<u>knowledge</u>" <i>puffs up</i>, but <u>love builds up</u>.² If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.³ But if anyone <u>loves God, he is known by God</u>.</p> <p>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 <u>one</u>."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 <u>one God, the Father</u>, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and <u>one Lord, Jesus Christ</u>, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.</p> <p>⁷ However, <u>not all possess this knowledge</u>. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.</p> <p>⁸ <u>Food will not commend us to God</u>. We are <i>no worse off</i> if we do not eat, and <i>no better off</i> if we do.⁹ But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block</p>	<p>v1-3: Why is knowledge alone inadequate to a right relationship with God?</p> <p>Compare knowledge vs love then contrast this with faith vs works (James 2:18–22).</p> <p>v4: Throughout the bible idolatry seems to be the #1 sin and God even addresses it in the 1st commandment, is this still true today? What do you think is the #1 sin today? (c.f. SC)</p> <p>v4-6: c.f. Deuteronomy 6:4 - Shema <div style="text-align: center;">שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד</div></p> <p>v7: c.f. Isaiah 44:14–20</p>
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¹ Engfehr, Lois M. (1997). *God's Word for Today: 1 Corinthians* (p. 42). St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House. Reproducible by purchaser only. © 2009 Concordia Publishing House.

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.

v13: c.f. Romans 14:20–21