

## 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1–13, “TO THE CHURCH OF GOD”

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

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

<sup>9</sup>Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>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?

<sup>11</sup>So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup>When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

<sup>13</sup>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.

### Discussion Questions (Choose a manageable number to discuss)

1. Pastor Josh Moody observed that verse 1 succinctly summarizes of the entire chapter. What does it tell us is the topic under consideration?  
What is the claim (which probably should be enclosed in quotation marks) that the Corinthians were making?  
What was Paul’s nutshell response?
2. How had knowledge puffed up the Corinthian believers? (See 3:18–23; 4:6.)  
Are we inclined to disparage those who haven’t mastered the truths we’ve mastered?
3. What (vv. 4–6, 8) did the Corinthians know?  
Is this important truth to understand?  
So what (v. 2) is the danger of acting based on knowledge alone?
4. What (vv. 7, 10) would Corinthian converts from paganism with an uneducated conscience assume about food sacrificed to idols?
5. Pastor Josh stated that knowledge without love is dangerous. How (vv. 9, 11–12) were the public actions of some Corinthian believers with educated consciences destroying other believers whose consciences were uneducated?
6. What building-up stance (v. 13) did Paul urge to replace the Corinthians’ puffed-up stance?
7. How did the Council at Jerusalem (composed of Jewish converts) respond to this issue for Gentile converts? (See Acts 15:25, 28–29.)
8. What are current exercises of freedom by the doctrinally sophisticated that could trip up the less sophisticated?  
How should they modify their behavior?
9. Pastor Josh asserted that we needn’t become legalists to please everyone, but should refrain from flaunting our rights. How is this balance achieved?