

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Key Word: Love

Giving Up and Building Up

Outline

- 1) Knowledge Puffs Up (verses 1-3)
- 2) Foundational Truth (verses 4-6)
- 3) Stumbling Block to the Weak (verses 7-10)
- 4) I will never _____, lest I make my brother stumble. (verses 11-13)
- 5) Crucified Lifestyle

1 Corinthians 8:1–13 (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.

1) Knowledge Puffs Up (verses 1-3)

- ***Love builds up... (Verse 1)***

If a head full of knowledge isn't governed by a heart full of love, all you have is a swollen head. ~ David Jackman

- ***Known by God***

³ But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

2 Timothy 2:19 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) Foundational Truth (verses 4-6)

- ***There is no god but one***

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.”

- ***One God and One Lord Jesus***

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.*

2) Foundational Truth (verses 4-6)

Parallel verse in Colossians 1:15,16

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

3) Stumbling Block to the Weak (verses 7-10)

- ***Conscience Defiled***

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.

- ***Stumbling Block***

9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

4) I will never _____, lest I make my brother stumble. (verses 11-13)

- ***Destruction***

¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.

- ***Sin Against Christ***

¹² Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

- ***Never Eat Meat***

¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

A crucified lifestyle is a living proclamation of the Lord's death

1. The way up is down.

God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble. (1 Pet 5:5)

2. Self fulfillment is only found by giving one's self away.

It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, (Matt 20:26, and 27)

3. Seeking salvation for everyone is assurance of my own.

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³ just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

(1 Corinthians 10:31–33)