

1 Corinthians 8 New American Standard Bible

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Take Care with Your Liberty

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes *one* conceited, but love edifies *people*.² If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;³ but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

⁴Therefore, concerning the eating of food sacrificed to idols, we know that an idol is nothing at all in the world, and that there is no God but one.⁵ For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords,⁶ yet for us there is *only* one God, 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.

⁷However, not all people have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat *food* as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.⁸ Now food will not bring us close to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.⁹ But take care that this freedom of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.¹⁰ For if someone sees you, the one who has knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will his conscience, if he is weak, not be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?¹¹ For through your knowledge the one who is weak is ruined, the brother *or sister* for whose sake Christ died.¹² And so, by sinning against the brothers *and sisters* and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to sin.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. Paul continues to bring instruction to this Church.

2. Remember this is a letter originally it never contained chapters and verses.
3. The practice of sacrificing to an idol has been on the earth for a very long time in the history of man.
4. The thought that a so called god was out there, wanting to receive sacrifices, so that he would act for your good is foolishness. Nevertheless this kind of practice was a foundational thought from the beginning.
5. Man's disconnected position from God and his attempts to reach a supernatural being.
6. No such god's exist except in the fear of the human soul, which is taken advantage of by unclean demon spirits who were cast out of heaven along with lucifer at the great rebellion in heaven.
7. The extreme versions of this practice were prepared to even sacrifice people, mostly children. Which is why God dispossessed the nations from the land of promise due to these evil practices.
8. The only sacrifice necessary for human beings that God requires is the sacrifice of surrendering a rebellious, sinful nature to God in the act of repentance.
9. The desire for knowledge comes out of the garden of Eden as a result of the great temptation. Paul says knowledge makes one arrogant and abandon love.
10. If we are to connect to the God of love who brings good things to everyone we become edified in spirit, soul and body.
11. When one considers themselves as having come to a place of knowing they have reached the place of 'stop learning'. If you ever get to that place then you might as well bin everything you know because you actually know nothing. We will be learning until the day we leave this earth.
12. To be known by God because we love God is to be under the shadow of His protection. God looks after all who trust in Him.
13. The problem of earthly sacrificing to idols was not a problem to Paul, only in as much as it would cause someone to stumble.
14. Paul is absolutely clear there is one God, the so called gods are devils who have established a principality and are exercising a power over the deceived.
15. The identity of the one true God, as far as Paul is concerned is as a Father even as Jesus revealed Him.
16. We exist for God, God doesn't exist for us.
17. The reason we exist through Jesus is because He is the word spoken. He is the Saviour come. His existence in the earth brought us to the Father, through His death we are reconciled from the disconnection because He heals the broken relationship.

18. Paul is aware that not all men know about this truth and so are without understanding and operate in a dark uncertainty.
19. Food will not commend us to God, only the broken body of Jesus Christ can do that.
20. Once you believe something is wrong, it has become for you something you should not do, lest you be denying your conviction in your conclusion.
21. Love will keep you aware of other people's position in these conclusions.
22. So do not use the freedom you have to cause your brother to stumble by eating meat sacrificed to idols.
23. When we neglect loving our brother by acting against their conclusions, we sin against them and against God – read 1 Corinthians chapter 13.