

Love Before Liberty
1 Corinthians 8

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I. Love > knowledge. 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

Every believer in Christ is given some *knowledge*; but true Christianity is founded on _____, revealed through *knowledge*.

- When an _____ believer has *knowledge* they will promote self while tearing others down; when a mature believer has spiritual *knowledge* they will use it properly to _____ others.

II. Sacrificed food. 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

Isaiah 44:17 And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my _____!" NKJV

- Notice Paul says *in Christ we live*. Jesus is not only the creator and giver of life; without Him, there is no _____ life. **Colossians 1:17**

III. Different knowledge. 1 Corinthians 8:7-8

There are some freedoms mature Christians take for granted, which may be _____ to others who do not realize what scripture teaches on those subjects.

- *"Their conscience is considered weak because it is wrongly _____; their conscience is operating on the idea that there really is something to an idol."* (Guzik)

Arguments over certain Christian liberties, where one stance is argued to be evidence of greater or lesser _____, are the modern equivalent of abstaining from meat sacrificed to idols.

IV. A stumbling block. 1 Corinthians 8:9-13

If your Christian _____ cause someone else to stumble, you are not seeking other people's well-being. **Romans 14:21**

- **Romans 14:23 But he who _____ is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin. NKJV**

Love always triumphs over _____ and unity among Christians always triumphs over a Christian's personal rights.

V. Practical Application.

If I have a freedom in Christ that stumbles another Christian; then I should _____ give up my freedom when I am with the weaker Christian.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **1 Corinthians 8:1-3**. Why is love greater than knowledge when it comes to serving Christ? Is Paul teaching that a Christian does not have or need knowledge?
1 Corinthians 1:4-5, Ephesians 4:15, Proverbs 27:6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
2. Discuss the two types of meats that were available for the Corinthians. How is the word "God" in **1 Corinthians 8:6** different than the word "god" in **Isaiah 44:17**?
Isaiah 44:14-17, Colossians 1:15-17
3. What are some ethical issues that might be considered debatable among Christians today? (For example, the Bible says nothing directly about the use of television.) (Wiersbe)
4. What did Paul mean by "strong" Christians? By "weak" Christians? (Wiersbe)
5. Why is there often friction between weaker and stronger Christians? Who should take responsibility for solving these conflicts? Why? (Wiersbe)
Romans 14:14-23, 1 Peter 4:7-8
6. For what purpose should the stronger Christian sometimes defer to the weaker? Are there any circumstances in which the stronger Christian should not defer to the weaker? (Wiersbe)
7. Discuss the practical applications of the sermon.