

I Corinthians 8:1-13 Calm Down And Grow Together ! 3/2/2025

(Supplemental Study for you : Romans 14:1 - 15:3/ I Corinthians 10:23-33)

The New Testament gives us principles to decide matters that fall into those grey areas. Trying to have a rule for every situation in life is not possible, nor could it be remembered. Loving knowledge becomes wisdom.

Key: We are talking about non-doctrinal issues today.

Question: Might we have the “right” to do something as a Christian, and a “freedom” to do something, but find that, the better part of wisdom would be to give it up in order to help bring someone along who has not grown to the place we have.

Ex. Joint service with high dressers and low dressers. We dressed up going over there, but in our church we did not dress up.

Ex. Youth director can drink a beer?

The meat markets in Corinth: *****

1. Meat was eaten by pagan worshippers, in their temples, after part of it was sacrificed to a pagan god.

Question: Can you eat meat previously offered to an idol?

You could buy what meat was left over from a pagan sacrifice, in the market, for a discount.

2. Some meat came from these temples. It was then served to the public during the community meals, open to everybody, including the Christians.

Question: Can a believer in Christ go to such public meals?

Answer: Paul gives 1 reason as “no” in Ch. 8, and a second reason to say “no” in Ch. 10.

Text Intro: Some problems cannot be solved by just dispensing knowledge. You have to have an attitude that comes through also. You can be right on a subject and still be wrong. What does that mean?

Ephesians 4:15 “But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is Christ.”

Our text today is more on how to act and speak when confronting elements of freedom.

TEXT: I Corinthians 8:1-13 Read

The Corinthians were immature and proud of their new-found knowledge. They did not see how prideful they were in claiming who was following the better apostle, 1 Cor. 1:10-13. It would also build their pride, and not their new spirit, by running around trying to impress everybody about how much they knew about the emptiness of idols. Even when they feigned humility in the matter it came off as condescension and patronization!

8:1-3 Great wisdom here! Most powerful 3 verses!

1. Loving, attractive wisdom 2. True wisdom delightfully humbles a man 3. God loves first, He found us when we were not looking for Him.

* "Knowledge makes a man look big, but only the love of God can make a man grow into full stature."

* " Knowledge is proud that it has learned so much; wisdom is humble that it knows no more."

*Isaac Newton- " I am gathering pebbles on the shore of the ocean of truth."

8:4-7 "Accustomed to idol" – Force of habit, and still not convinced the idol does not exist.

The meat is not defiled, but the conscience can be.

They could still sin even though, intrinsically, nothing wrong with eating it.

Ex. Hunting in the fields as a kid. Another man owned a field dividing two fields we were permitted to hunt. We hunted where we should not have, i.e., the middle field. We found out later the man who owned the outer fields had bought the middle field a few years before. So were we wrong? Yes we were. We thought we were doing wrong. Conscience.

8:9-13 Eventually the weak have to grow up, but don't force it on them in the name of "knowledge" and "freedom."

Ex. Pilgrim's Progress-

Question: What is your real motive in straighten them out?

Not all situations of another's ignorance is a case of the "Doctrine of the weaker brother."

Many times they will want their weak view to rule in the church! **You cannot let the tail wag the dog!**

1 Corinthians 10: 23- 31 ".,, why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?"