

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures.

Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.



FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What traditions and superstitions were part of your life, even when you were a new Christian? How did you deal with these?
2. Have you been part of a church situation where it seemed that knowledge was a higher priority than love? How did you deal with that?
3. What was the specific problem happening in the Corinthian church in chapter 8. Use your own words.
4. What are some examples in our society of loving others enough to constrain your own freedom?
5. What are the four things that we KNOW? And, what is the real issue behind knowing these things?
6. What was Paul’s conclusion for himself? What conclusion do you draw for yourself from this chapter?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS SERIES

1Cor. 10:23 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. 24 No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.



August 18 & 19, 2018 | CYAFI #1 | 1Corinthians 8:1-13 | Dennis Miller, pastor

OUR KEY THOUGHT FOR THIS SERIES:

FREEDOM in Christ is a wonderful thing, but we want to use that freedom WISELY. In whatever you do, pause and ask yourself how it might AFFECT someone else’s faith.

1Cor. 10:23 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. 24 No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

AS WE MOVE TO CHAPTER 8 . . .

1. Paul continues ANSWERING questions from the people in the church at Corinth. (Chapters 8 through 11)

1Cor. 7:1 Now for the matters you wrote about: . . .

1Cor. 8:1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: . . .

2. The church consisted of NEW believers (1st-generation) who were still struggling with an OLD lifestyle and superstitions.
3. These new Christians were GROWING, but their knowledge had started to override their LOVE for one another. Knowledge (γνῶσις, gnōsis) is used FIVE times in this chapter.
4. The question raised here, FOOD sacrificed to idols, was a COMMON one for first-century Christians.

Acts 15:19 “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

FOUR THINGS WE “KNOW”

1Cor. 8:1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. 2 Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. 3 But whoever loves God is known by God. 4 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.” 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 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. . . . 8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

1. We KNOW that all Christians have knowledge (probably a quote from their letter). But there are THREE cautions:

- Knowledge can make us PROUD while love encourages.
- Sometimes people “think they know” BEFORE they really do.
- It is more important to LOVE the Lord and let Him KNOW us than for us to think we KNOW all about Him.

2. We KNOW that idols are NOTHING at all and that there is only ONE God in the universe.

Deut. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

— Sure, there are LOTS of people who worship “so-called gods” in the HEAVENS (stars, planets, etc.) or on the earth (idols), but we know that they are NOT REAL.

Psalms 115:3 Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. 4 But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands. 5 They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. 6 They have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell. 7 They have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk, nor can they utter a sound with their throats. 8 Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

— Many “gods and lords” refers to the IDOLS of gods and the STATUES of Caesar.

Acts 17:22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. . . .

3. We KNOW the true God and what He has DONE!

— Paul then quotes what was probably a common CREED which would have been KNOWN by first-century Christians.

— Note the phrases “FOR Whom we live,” and “THROUGH Whom we live.”

4. We KNOW that food doesn’t MATTER to God. Food doesn’t make us MORE holy or LESS holy.

— For the Jews, this could be DIFFICULT (kosher).

Mark 7:18 “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? 19 For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

WHAT SOME DON’T KNOW

1Cor. 8:7 But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.

1. There were younger Christians who had not UNDERSTOOD or assimilated these things. Many of these newer believers came from a TRADITION of idol worship, and for them, it was still ingrained or had become SUPERSTITION.

2. Even with their new FAITH, their conscience was WEAK, and could even become DEFILED (sin).

James 4:17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

1Tim. 4:2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

HOW WE SHOULD LIVE

1Cor. 8:9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol’s temple, won’t that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

1. Even though you CAN do something that is not sin, understand that it could hurt a WEAKER fellow Christian. (His illustration of eating in a temple.)

2. So, even though you are CORRECT for yourself, you could be doing WRONG to others — and that can be SIN for you!

3. Paul’s decision for HIMSELF was to REFUSE to do anything that had the potential to HURT a weaker brother even though he (Paul) was FREE in Christ. LOVE trumps freedom!