

Together: Study in 1 Corinthians
“How to Live in Life’s ‘Gray’ Areas”
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
April 29, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

3 WAYS WE DEAL WITH UNCERTAINTY

LEGALIST LIBERTINE LOVE

3 REASONS FOR THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH’S LIBERTY

• **BIBLE DOESN’T FORBID IT**

¹ “We all possess knowledge” (v.1)

• **AN IDOL IS NOTHING**

⁴ “An idol is nothing at all in this world. . .there is no God but one” (v.4)

• **GOD ISN’T CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WE EAT**

⁸ “food does not bring us near to God;” (v.8)

4 THINGS LOVE CONSIDERS WHEN FACED WITH LIFE’S GRAY AREAS

1. Love asks: “How will this affect my Church family?”

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. 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

2. Love says “I will limit my freedom if my actions offend my brothers or sisters.”

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. 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 Corinthians 8:4-7

3. Love says “I will limit my freedom if my actions lead my brother or sister to violate”

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. ⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

◆ **Proskomma (pro’s-kom-mä):** to stumble; to place an obstacle so to trip someone’s feet; to strike against

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. 1 Corinthians 8:8-11

4. Love says “I will limit my freedom because I don’t want to sin against Christ.”

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 Corinthians 8:12-13

Discussion Questions

1. What was your “take-away” from Sunday’s message? Why did this stand out to you?
2. How would the 4 Things Love Considers that Pastor Shawn shared help you when facing a ‘gray area’ in your spiritual life? What does this say about the type of freedom we have in Christ?
3. What warning does Paul give about knowledge (vv.1-3)? Why does knowledge only “puff up but love builds up”?
4. What does Paul say is more important than exercising the freedom that comes with your life in Christ (vv.9-13)?
5. What “knowledge” and freedom that you currently enjoy would you be willing to give up in order to not destroy a weaker brother or sister?
6. How can the behavior of a mature believer challenge an immature believer to grow?