

1 Corinthians 8: A Problem with Liberty

Introduction: Paul begins a three chapter instruction to this baby church, concerning “things offered to idols.” His instruction culminates in 1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” These three chapters 8 – 10, deal with conscience and liberty. Everything that we choose to do, must be filtered through our fellowship with Christ – does this activity or action glorify God? What is the attitude of my heart and my motivation for doing this?

V.1: Paul turns his _____ to the next question in the letter he received from this church.

Acts 15:22-31; Acts 21:25; Revelation 2:14, 20

Two types of sacrifice:

_____ or individual sacrifice: where the meat is divided into three parts – a token part is burned on the altar, the priests were given the ribs, ham, and left side, and the remainder is given to the worshipper.

Public or _____ authorized sacrifice: the meat that is not sacrificed is sold cheap to the meat shops for profit to the pagan temple.

1 Corinthians 13:4 -- Knowledge _____ up, but love _____ up!

V.2: What do we know about knowledge? It is incomplete, imperfect, and _____. 1 Cor. 13:8-10
1 Cor. 3:18; Galatians 6:3; Colossians 2:1-3

“Knowledge is _____ that it knows so much; Wisdom is _____ that it knows no more.”
William Cowper

V.3: Knowledge is a _____, not an _____! John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-11

“Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.” Teddy Roosevelt

V.4-6: Paul continues his reply to the letter – Idols have no _____ or authority, except what you give them. Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 22:37-39

There are _____ behind the idols, but not the ones the worshippers thought.

Hinduism alone states there are _____ gods. Ephesians 6:10-13

V.7-8: Not every believer in Corinth had _____ of the doctrines of God, creation, and Christ.
Romans 14:17

V.9-10: Be careful how you use your _____ in Christ.
Knowledge without love produces _____; _____ without love generates arrogance.
Galatians 5:13; John 13:35; 1 Corinthians 13:1-4

V.11-13: When we _____ our liberty in Christ, the weaker brother is torn down rather than built up.
Romans 14:1-17

It all boils down to _____. In the Greco-Roman world of Paul's day, sin was simply an inconvenient _____. It was compared to an archer missing the mark – a lack of skill that training could overcome. In the scriptures, sin is a personal affront to God. Psalm 51

Christian fellowship carries great responsibility: to lay down your own life (personal rights) for your friends. John 15:13

Forfeiting things you consider perfectly legitimate in order that your friends may find the way to Jesus more easily. What is safe for one may not be safe for another. No one has the right to indulge in a pleasure, or demand a liberty, that may be the ruination of someone else.
