

1 Corinthians Part One

Lesson #27, Chapter 8:1-6

To prepare for your lesson please read all of chapter 8 and ask the Lord for His help as you study.

1. What indication do you have from the text that Paul is answering questions the Corinthians may have previously written to him? See 1 Cor. 7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1.
2. What dilemma are the believers facing in chapter 8?
3. According to verse 1, how do you know that Paul taught on this issue (or aspects of it) at some time in the past?
4. What do we learn about *knowledge* in verses 1-2?
5. What's the biblical solution to making sure our knowledge doesn't puff us up? See verses 2-3. Now look up Jer. 9:23-24; 1 Cor. 1:30-31.
6. What are some characteristics of knowledge tainted with arrogance? See 1 Sam. 2:3; 1 Cor. 4:5-6; 13:4; James 3:14.

7. What is one thing we can know for sure about knowledge according to verse 3? How is that an encouragement for the Corinthians after Paul's statements in verses 1-2?

8. By now you may be thinking that knowledge isn't a good thing to pursue, yet in and of itself is it bad? What do you learn about knowledge from Rom. 15:14; 1 Cor. 1:5; 2 Cor. 6:6; 8:7; Phil. 1:9?

9. What clues can you derive from 1 Corinthians 8:1 that tell you what kind of knowledge God desires for His children?

10. How do we attain to that kind-God's kind-of knowledge? See Prov. 1:7; 2:1-6; Col. 2:2-3; 3:10; 2 Pet. 1:2-8.

11. At this point in our study of chapter 8 how would you explain the connection between *knowledge*, *love*, and *eating things sacrificed to idols*.

12. As Paul opens the discussion about things sacrificed to idols how do his statements about knowledge prepare us for the discussion to come?

13. What are the things we *know* about things sacrificed to idols from verses 4-6?

14. What do we *know* about God from verses 4-6?

15. What point is Paul making about God's superiority over idols?

16. How should that knowledge solve the dilemma a Christian may have about eating meat sacrificed to idols?

17. Think of some modern day Christian liberty scenarios where our knowledge must be tempered with our love.

18. What are some practical ways we can join love and knowledge together when it comes to Christian liberties?

Christian liberties are like sharp pencils. If used in the right way they can be a blessing, but misused, they become a weapon to do us and others harm.

~ Jack Hughes

Anyone wanting to study Christian liberties further should listen to Jack Hughes' 4-part sermon series on "Your Liberties in Christ" at www.calvarybiblechurch.org. He provides a helpful, balanced look at the topic, while furnishing a step-by-step guide to using our liberties with wisdom and love. Another great resource is from Warren Wiersbe in his excellent chapter on Christian liberties "Be Wise About Christian Liberties," *The Bible Exposition Commentary* from Victor Books.