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1 Corinthians 8
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1 Corinthians 8

1 Corinthians 8:1

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes one conceited, but love edifies people.

† Paul acknowledges their knowledge about idols being nothing, but warns that knowledge alone can lead to arrogance.

† Love, not prideful knowledge, is the true foundation of Christian living.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 49) warned that knowledge puffs up, but love builds up, echoing Paul's words.

1 Corinthians 8:2-3

If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know, but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

† True knowledge is humble and grounded in love for God.

† Being known by God is greater than mere intellectual understanding.

1 Corinthians 8:4-6

Therefore, concerning the eating of food sacrificed to idols, we know that an idol is nothing at all in the world, and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is only one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

† Idols are powerless, mere creations of men.

† Believers confess one God, the Father, and one Lord, Jesus Christ.

† This confession separates Christians from the idolatrous world.

† Philo (On the Decalogue 65) argued strongly for monotheism against the many gods of the nations.

1 Corinthians 8:7

However, not all people have this knowledge, but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

† Some believers still struggled with their old associations with idolatry.

† Their conscience was weak, and eating such food troubled

their faith.

1 Corinthians 8:8

But food will not bring us closer to God, we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.

† Food is spiritually neutral.

† What matters is the heart of faith and love.

1 Corinthians 8:9-10

But take care that this freedom of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone sees you, the one who has knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will his conscience, if he is weak, not be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?

† Knowledge without love endangers weaker believers.

† Christian liberty must never be used to harm another's faith.

1 Corinthians 8:11-12

For through your knowledge the one who is weak is ruined, the brother or sister for whose sake Christ died. And so, by sinning against the brothers and sisters and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

† To wound a brother or sister in Christ is to sin against Christ Himself.

† The cross elevates the value of every believer, especially the weak.

1 Corinthians 8:13

Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to sin.

† Paul's example shows the supremacy of love over liberty.

† The welfare of others must govern the believer's choices.

How it applies to us today

- † 1 Corinthians 8 teaches that love must govern knowledge.
- † Liberty must be exercised with responsibility, never causing a weaker believer to stumble.
- † True maturity lays down personal rights for the sake of others.
- † Being known by God is greater than any knowledge we possess.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

- † Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 49 - knowledge puffs up, love builds up
- † Philo, On the Decalogue 65 - monotheism against many gods

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