

1 Cor Sermon Series Chapter 8

1 Corinthians 8:1

Final Outline (Chapter)

OUTLINE

1. Idols Are Powerless (1-6)
 1. Knowledge and love (1-3)
 1. Knowledge leads to pride.
 2. Love builds up.
 2. There is one God (4-6)
 1. Idols have no power
 2. All things are created by God and for God.
2. Love Preferred (7-13)
 1. Weaker Christians (7)
 1. Weak consciousness is easily defiled.
 2. Causing others to fall (8-12)
 1. Freedom can be misused.
 2. Our actions can cause another to fall into sin.
 3. If we cause someone to fall into sin, we sin against God and them.
 4. Love preferred (13)

1 Cor Sermon Series Chapter 8

Cross References:

Verse 2

1 Cor 3:18

Gal 6:3

Verse 3

1 John 4:8

Gal 4:9

Verse 13

Rom 15:1-3

OBServe

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that
“we all have knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but
love builds up. If anyone thinks he knows
anything, he does not yet know it as he ought to
know it. But if anyone loves God, he is known by
him.

Having knowledge can lead to pride

Love will put pride aside

In "knowledge" I may do harm because I can

In love I specify what I "can" do for the sake of others.

All who love God is known of God.

Idols are powerless

About eating food sacrificed to idols, then, we
know that “an idol is nothing 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
there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for
us there is one God, the Father. All things are from
him, and we exist for him. And there is one Lord,
Jesus Christ. All things are through him, and we
exist through him.

Idols have no power

God is the one and only

A clarifier

Even if other gods existed, for us, there is one

God created all things

We are created for him

Christ is through whom all things are created

both in our existence and in our salvation

That idols are powerless

However, not everyone has this knowledge.
Some have been so used to idolatry up until now
that when they eat food sacrificed to an idol, their

Think acholotic

conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not bring us close to God. We are not worse off if we don't eat, and we are not better if we do eat. But be

careful that this right of yours in no way becomes

Drinking with an alcoholic may cause them to relapse.

a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone sees you, the one who has knowledge, dining in an

idol's temple, won't his weak conscience be encouraged to eat food offered to idols? So the

weak person, the brother or sister for whom Christ died, is ruined by your knowledge. Now when you

sin like this against brothers and sisters and wound their weak conscience, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother or

sister to fall, I will never again eat meat, so that I

won't cause my brother or sister to fall.

Take care, not to cause our brother or sister to stumble.

And that is a sin... Against God and my brother.

Living for others

Question

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “we all have knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone thinks he knows anything, he does not yet know it as he ought to know it. But if anyone loves God, he is known by him.

About eating food sacrificed to idols, then, we know that “an idol is nothing 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 there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is one God, the Father. All things are from him, and we exist for him. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things are through him, and we exist through him.

However, not everyone has this knowledge. Some have been so used to idolatry up until now that when they eat food sacrificed to an idol, their

conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not bring us close to God. We are not worse off if we don't eat, and we are not better if we do eat. But be **careful** that this right of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone sees you, the one who has knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, won't his weak conscience be encouraged to eat food offered to idols? So the weak person, the brother or sister for whom Christ died, is ruined by your knowledge. Now when you sin like this against brothers and sisters and wound their weak conscience, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother or sister to fall, I will never again eat meat, so that I won't cause my brother or sister to fall.

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About eating food sacrificed to idols, then, we know that “an idol is nothing 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 there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is one God, the Father. All things are from him, and we exist for him. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things are through him, and we exist through him.

However, not everyone has this knowledge. Some have been so used to idolatry up until now that when they eat food sacrificed to an idol, their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not bring us close to God. We are not worse off if we don’t eat, and we are not better if we do eat. But be careful that this right of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone sees you, the one who has knowledge, dining in an idol’s temple, won’t his weak conscience be encouraged to eat food offered to idols? So the weak person, the brother or sister for whom Christ died, is ruined by your knowledge. Now when you sin like this against brothers and sisters and wound their weak conscience, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother or sister to fall, I will never again eat meat, so that I won’t cause my brother or sister to fall.

Draft Outline

This section begins a new segment of Pauls letter - Christian freedom. As I’ve read through this section on Christian freedom and eating foods sacrificed to idols, I’ve broken it down into two main sections and a few subpoints.

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2. Love builds up.
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2. Misused Freedom (7-13)
 1. Weaker Christians (7)
 1. Weak consciousness is easily defiled.
 2. Causing others to fall (8-12)
 1. Freedom can be misused.
 2. Our actions can cause another to fall into sin.
 3. If we cause someone to fall into sin, we sin against God and them.
3. Living For Others (13)
 1. Live to build up others.

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1 Corinthians 8:1

Others outlines:

After reading and outlining on my own, I have sought some outlines from other pastors. Many have left the chapter to stand on its own, however, I found two differing opinions from my own that may influence how I ultimately outline for my outline and sermon.

Curtis Vaughan

Liberty limited by love

1. Problem and solution (1-3)
2. Knowledge Explained (4-6)
3. Love preferred (7-13)

Leon Morris

Meat Sacrificed to Idols

1. Knowledge about idols (1-6)
2. The weak brother (7-13)

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2. The pride of the Corinthians continues to be the object of Paul's criticism in verse 2. Those who are proud of their knowledge do not have true knowledge, in the sense that they have not applied the knowledge they have rightly. The Pauline statement could be read as endorsing philosophical relativism, with the consequence being that all claims to knowledge are subverted. Such a reading, however, does not take into account the context of the chapter and the larger context of Paul's writings, for he was clearly not a relativist. A more suitable parallel is 1 Corinthians 3:18, where Paul warns those who think they are wise to become fools so that they will become truly wise. Another apt parallel is Galatians 6:3: 'If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.' True knowledge is adorned with humility and accompanied by love, and if these qualities are lacking, one's knowledge has not been applied correctly.

3. Love is the signature and mark of being a Christian (cf. 13:1–13; John 13:34–35), and such love has God supremely as its object, though such love for God is also expressed in love for brothers and sisters. The knowers may have boasted in their knowledge, but what is decisive is whether one is known by God. To be known (*egnōstai*) by God is another way of speaking of God's electing grace. For instance, the Lord declares to Israel: 'you only have I chosen of all the families of the earth' (Amos 3:2). The word 'chosen' here translates the verb 'known' (*egnōn*). Similarly, the Lord says of Abraham, 'I have chosen [*ēdein*, lit. 'known'] him' (Gen. 18:19), which refers to God's election of Abraham. We find the same theme in the selection of Jeremiah as a prophet: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew [*epistamai*] you' (Jer. 1:5). The verb 'know' in Jeremiah 1:5 is translated as 'chosen' by some English translations (e.g. hcsb, nasb, net). Paul also uses the verb 'foreknow' (*proginōskō*) to denote God's covenant affection which he bestows on his people (Rom. 8:29; 11:2). The Corinthians' pride in their so-called knowledge should be staved off by their recognition that their inclusion among God's people is due to his electing love.

1 Corinthians 8:2

Paul continues his attack on Corinth's pride. Though they continue to boast

in their knowledge, they do lot live according to their love. Their knowledge has boasted them up to the point of arrogance and they misuse their freedom accordingly.

System Guide Customizations: Word by Word (Bible Reference)

Word by Word

The English-Greek Reverse Interlinear Christian Standard Bible: New Testament

1 Corinthians 8:1

Περὶ δὲ τῶν εἰδωλοθύτων, οἶδαμεν ὅτι
πάντες γινώσιν ἔχομεν. ἡ γινώσις
φουσιῶ, ἡ δὲ ἀγάπη οἰκοδομεῖ. |
CSBNT

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We
know that “we all have knowledge.”
Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up
| CSB

εἰδωλοθύτων *eidōlothytōn* Now about **food sacrificed to idols:** We know that
“we all have knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

εἰδωλόθυτος *eidōlothytos* **food
sacrificed to idols**

adjective, genitive, plural, neuter

Sense: idol-sacrificed food – food offered to an idol as a form of religious service
or worship.

BDAG someth. offered to a cultic image/idol

LSJ sacrificed to idols; meats offered to idols

DBL Greek sacrificial meat

οἶδαμεν *oidamen* Now about food sacrificed to idols: **We know** that “we all have
knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

οἶδα *oida* **know**

verb, perfect, active, indicative, first person, plural

Sense: to know (cognitive) – to be cognizant or aware of a fact or a specific piece
of information; possess knowledge or information about.

BDAG know; can, be able; understand, recognize, come to know, experience;
recollect, recall, be aware of; respect, honor

LSJ know; knew; Stadtrecht von Gorlyn; Koische Forschungen; know, have
knowledge of, be acquainted with; know of; be assured; has; in his heart; had;
were; disposed; cunning with; acknowledge; thank; be; my witness; one who
knows, one acquainted with the fact; knowing

LTW

πάντες *pantes* Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that **“we all** have
knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

πᾶς *pas* **all; every**

adjective, nominative, plural, masculine

Sense: each – (used of count nouns) every one considered individually.

BDAG each, every, any; any and every, every; all; whole; every kind of, all sorts of
LSJ all; the whole; every

DBL Greek all; any; total; whole; every kind of

γνῶσιν gnōsin Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “we all have **knowledge.**” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

γνῶσις gnōsis knowledge

noun, accusative, singular, feminine

Sense: knowledge – the psychological result of perception and learning and reasoning; sometimes simply endowed by God (often with focus on application of the knowledge).

BDAG knowledge; knowledge, what is known

LSJ seeking to know, inquiry, investigation

LTW

ἔχομεν echomen Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “we all **have** knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

ἔχω echō have

verb, present, active, indicative, first person, plural

Sense: to have (feature) – to contain or have some aspect or feature.

BDAG have, own; have, have as; have, hold (to), grip; have on, wear; can, be able; consider, look upon, view; have; to have; include in itself, bring about, cause; it is, the situation is; be (in a certain way); hold fast, be next to, be next

LSJ check

DBL Greek possess; hold on to; hold a view; wear; be able to; experience; be; bring about; have

γνῶσις gnōsis Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “we all have knowledge.” **Knowledge** puffs up, but love builds up.

γνῶσις gnōsis knowledge

noun, nominative, singular, feminine

Sense: knowledge – the psychological result of perception and learning and reasoning; sometimes simply endowed by God (often with focus on application of the knowledge).

BDAG knowledge; knowledge, what is known

LSJ seeking to know, inquiry, investigation

LTW

φυσιοῖ physioi Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “we all have knowledge.” Knowledge **puffs up,** but love builds up.

φυσιώω physioō puff up; make proud

verb, present, active, indicative, third person, singular

Sense: to make proud ⇔ puff up – to cause to become proud, conceived of as inflating something with air.

BDAG puff up, make proud

LSJ dispose one naturally; having become a second nature, inveterate
LTW to puff up; to be inflated.

ἀγάπη *agapē* Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “we all have knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but **love** builds up.

ἀγάπη *agapē* **love**

noun, nominative, singular, feminine

Sense: love (affection) – a strong positive emotion of regard and affection.

BDAG esteem, affection, regard, love; fellowship meal, a love-feast

LSJ love

LTW

οἰκοδομεῖ *oikodomei* Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “we all have knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love **builds up**.

οἰκοδομέω *oikodomeō* **build;**

strengthen; build up

verb, present, active, indicative, third person, singular

Sense: to build up ⇔ construct – to make nearer to fullness or completion (as of moral strength or someone’s conscience); conceived of as constructing something further.

BDAG build; strengthen, build up, make more able.

LSJ build a house; build; build oneself; have; built; to be built

DBL Greek build; make more able

System Guide Customizations: Word by Word (Bible Reference)

Word by Word

The English-Greek Reverse Interlinear Christian Standard Bible: New Testament

1 Corinthians 8:9

βλέπετε δὲ μή πως ἡ ἐξουσία ὑμῶν
αὕτη πρόσκομμα γένηται τοῖς
ἀσθενέσιν. | CSBNT

But be careful that this right of yours
in no way becomes a stumbling block
to the weak | CSB

βλέπετε blepete But **be careful that** this right of yours in no way becomes a
stumbling block to the weak.

βλέπω *blepō* **see**

verb, present, active, imperative, second person, plural

Sense: to watch carefully – to be vigilant, be on the lookout or be careful.

BDAG see; be able to see; look at, observe; notice, mark; watch, look to, beware
of; direct one's attention to someth., consider, note; perceive, feel; looking to, in
the direction of, facing

LSJ see, have the power of sight; perceive, be aware of; see too clearly; the seer;
sighted

DBL Greek see; be able to see; watch out for; think about; understand; cause to
happen; facing; start to do and then hesitate

ἐξουσία *exousia* But be careful that this **right** of yours in no way becomes a
stumbling block to the weak.

ἐξουσία *exousia* **authority; power**

noun, nominative, singular, feminine

Sense: discretion (freedom) – freedom to act or judge on one's own.

BDAG freedom of choice, right; capability, might, power; authority, absolute
power, warrant; ruling power, official power; authorities, officials, government;
domain; a means of exercising power

LSJ power, authority; permission; freedom permitted; power; control; power
over, licence in; qualification for; licence; patria potestas

LTW

πρόσκομμα *proskomma* But be careful that this right of yours in no way becomes a
stumbling block to the weak.

πρόσκομμα *proskomma* **stumbling**

noun, nominative, singular, neuter

Sense: cause sin ⇔ stumbling – any cause that results in a person sinning;
whether by preventing righteous action or by promoting sinful behavior.

BDAG cause for offense, cause for making a misstep

LSJ stumble; offence, obstacle, hindrance

DBL Greek stumbling; offense; occasion to sin

γένηται *genētai* But be careful that this right of yours in no way **becomes** a stumbling block to the weak.

γίνομαι *ginomai* **be; become; take place**

verb, aorist, middle, subjunctive, third person, singular

Sense: to become (condition) – to enter or assume a certain state or condition. BDAG be born, be produced; be made, be created, be manufactured, be performed; arise, come about, develop; happen, turn out, take place; become someth.; move; to be, prove to be, turn out to be; be there; belong to; be in, be there

LSJ come into a new state of being

DBL Greek come to exist; be; become; happen; move; belong to; behave; be in a place; come to be in a place; there was

ἀσθενέσιν *asthenesin* But be careful that this right of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block **to the weak.**

ἀσθενής *asthenēs* **weak; sick**

adjective, dative, plural, masculine

Sense: weak person – a person lacking strength or authority; an ineffectual person.

BDAG sick, ill; weak

LSJ without strength, weak

LTW sick, weak.

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