

# 1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 19

## Chapter 8: Exercising Charity with the Weaker Brethren

27 October 2017

In chapter eight, Paul discusses another symptom of a bad heart. In chapter 7, it resulted in problems in the marriage. In chapter 8, it resulted their abuse of liberty causing the weaker brethren to sin. They needed to learn the importance of self-sacrifice (laying down your life; your desires) for the benefit of others. Paul taught them to make sure their actions were charitable.

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### FIRST CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 8

**Vs. 1** Knowledge alone will fill you with pride. You must be charitable if you want to help someone else. This will require that you put others first. The Pharisees had knowledge, but they were no help to anybody because they only cared about themselves.

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**Vs. 2** Anyone who exalts himself because of his knowledge still has much to learn. If you have been able to gain much knowledge, you ought to thank God for it and use it to edify others. Give God the glory.

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**Vs. 3** People will know whether you love God or not by your treatment of others and your concern for the things that God cares about.

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**Vss. 4-6** Here's what we know: an idol is nothing. There is only one God and one Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator of all things.

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### IDOLATRY REBUKED

**Isaiah 44:9-20** The Lord revealed the foolishness of making your own god. How powerful could a god possibly be if you formed it and fashioned it yourself? In fact, it can't do anything for you; it's completely useless. The people were making idols out of the same wood that they used to cook their food (vss 14-17).

God shuts the eyes (the understanding) of the idolater (vs 18) until they identify their idol to be a lie (vs 20).

**Habakkuk 1:15-17** People praise the equipment they use to gather food instead of praising God for providing the food. We need to understand that material things are just tokens and evidences that God has been good to us.

**Judges 6:25-32** God instructed Gideon to destroy the altar of Baal and the grove of trees around it. When the men of the city wanted to kill Gideon, his father pointed out to them that if Baal is really a god, he ought to be able to take care of his own affairs without the help of men. He understood that Baal is not a god at all.

**1 Samuel 5:1-5**

God knocked over the idol Dagon. When it was destroyed, the people decided that the threshold was a sacred place because that's where Dagon landed. If you test your superstitions with the Bible, you may find out they're connected to the Devil or to idolatry of some form.

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**FIRST CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 8**

**Vs. 7** Everybody doesn't know what you know. It takes time to learn what's right and what's wrong. You can't determine who's saved by observing their habits. They may not know it's wrong yet. You need to give people time to grow in the things of God and to gradually get away from their old habits and practices.

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**Vs. 8** Your diet does not affect your relationship to God. He looks at your heart. Your heart ought to always consider others. If someone has an issue with a certain food, you'll abstain from eating it to avoid offending them or causing them to sin against their conscience.

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**Vss. 9-10** Don't let your knowledge and your liberty cause you to stumble a weak Christian. This also applies to your testimony among lost people. **Abstain from all appearance of evil** (1 Thess. 5:22). Don't let your freedom cause someone to decide that Christianity isn't worth looking into.

Doubtful things: there are things that are not specifically mentioned in the Bible, but the principals in the Bible ought to help you come to the right conclusions. But even if you decide that something is not a sin, you still need to consider how the people with you are going to be affected.

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**Vs. 11** Your actions affect others (see Romans 14:7-9). In this verse, the word "**perish**" doesn't mean your "brother" will go to hell as a result of your disregard for his feelings. Perish means to be spoiled. Don't be the cause of somebody else's sin.

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**Vss. 12-13** It is a sin to wound a brother's weak conscience, even if your conscience permits your actions. You've always got to consider others.

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