

Sermon: Be Careful with Freedom (in Christ).

Text: [I Corinthians 8:1-13 ESV](#)

Gary L. Wackler

March 12, 2023

Introduction: We can't always tell who is weak or strong in the faith by what they do or don't do. One principle is sure: [Romans 15:7 ESV](#) 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

I. _____ and Love (vv. 1-3)

- A. Knowledge can be _____ (v. 1).
- B. Love _____ (v. 1).
- C. Knowledge is always _____ (v. 2).
- D. Love produces a _____ with God (v. 3).

II. God and _____ (vv. 4-6)

- A. Idols are not _____ (v.4).
- B. People think _____ (vv. 4-5).
- C. There is _____ God (v. 6a).
- D. Jesus is _____ (v. 6b)!

III. Not Everyone Knows God the _____ (vv. 7-12).

- A. Some Christians have _____ consciences (v. 7).
- B. Don't be a _____ block (vv. 8-9).
- C. Be an _____ to the weak (v. 10).
- D. Do not sin against _____ (vv. 11-12).

Conclusion: So what should we do for a weaker brother or sister? We should do or not do everything to build them up and show God's love and patience, never contributing intentionally to their falling into sin and possibly even out of the Body of Christ.

I Corinthians 8 ESV

Food Offered to Idols

1 Now concerning[a] food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.[b]

4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating[c] in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged,[d] if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers[e] and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Footnotes:

[a] 1 Corinthians 8:1 The expression Now concerning introduces a reply to a question in the Corinthians' letter; see 7:1

[b] 1 Corinthians 8:3 Greek him

[c] 1 Corinthians 8:10 Greek reclining at table

[d] 1 Corinthians 8:10 Or fortified; Greek built up

[e] 1 Corinthians 8:12 Or brothers and sisters