

13 – THE ISSUE OF FREEDOM (1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13)

I. Love and Knowledge Contrasted (1 Corinthians 8:1-3)

A. The Issue of Meat (1 Corinthians 8:1a)

- Paul turns his attention to meat offered to idols.

B. The Pride of Knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:1b)

- Knowledge alone puffs up an individual.
- Love builds up one another.

C. The Blindness of Knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:2)

- Those who think they have knowledge really have none.

D. Loving God is True Knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:3)

- Those who love God are known by the God.

II. The Issue of Eating Meat Offered to Idols (1 Corinthians 8:4-6)

A. The Issue Restated (1 Corinthians 8:4a)

- The heart of the issue is the question concerning eating meat offered to idols.

B. The True Nature of Idols (1 Corinthians 8:4b-5)

- The reality is that idols are nothing.

C. The True God (1 Corinthians 8:6)

- There is only one God, the creator of the universe.
- There is only one Lord, Jesus Christ.

III. The Limits of Freedom (1 Corinthians 8:7-13)

A. The Immature (1 Corinthians 8:7)

- Some believers have not matured in their understanding of idols.
- They are not able to handle the thought of others eating meat offered to idols.

B. Food is Amoral (1 Corinthians 8:8)

When Church Becomes Messy: First Corinthians

- There is nothing wrong with food.
- Food does not affect our standing with God.

C. Care for the Immature (1 Corinthians 8:9-12)

1. Be Careful (1 Corinthians 8:9)

- The mature should be careful in exercising their freedom.

2. The Impact on the Immature (1 Corinthians 8:10-11)

- The immature will be damaged by the actions of the mature.

3. The Sin (1 Corinthians 8:12)

- The actions of the mature is a sin against others and God.

D. The Principle (1 Corinthians 8:13)

- Because of love, we should give up our freedoms for the sake of others.