

Love + Liberty

MESSAGE: TIM BARLEY

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2021

Love & Liberty: 1 Corinthians 8:7-13

Decision Making & the Will of God

- If God _____, we _____.
- If God _____ command, we have _____ - with responsibility - to _____.
- If God _____ command, we're provided _____ to choose.
- If we choose what's _____ & _____, we trust God to work out the _____ for our _____ and His _____.

“ In essentials, _____, in non-essentials, _____, in all things, _____.” - Rupertus Meldenus

Review

The _____ (1 Corinthians 8:1-3)

- The two issues under consideration are:
 1. Can a believer _____ in worldly activities associated with evil?
 2. Can a believer _____ of anything associated with these activities?
- There's a kind of _____ that leads to pride.
- Our faith in Christ isn't just based on _____ but powered by _____.

The _____ (1 Corinthians 8:4-6)

“...an idol has no real existence... there is no God but one...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.” **1 Cor. 1:4 & 6**

- Idols are _____ but there is one _____, who is a _____.

The _____ (1 Corinthians 8:7-8)

⁷ But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.

*For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. **Romans 1:21-23***

*“He who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.” **Romans 14:23***

⁸ But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

*For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. **Psalms 51:16-17.***

The _____ (1 Corinthians 8:9-10)

⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols?

*"You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block (miskol) before the blind; but you shall fear your God. I am Yahweh." **Leviticus 19:14***

The _____ (1 Corinthians 8:11-12)

¹¹ So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

The _____ (1 Corinthians 8:13)

¹³ Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

*"Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols." **Revelation 2:20***

LOVE & LIBERTY Principles:

1. Having the *right* to do something doesn't mean we're *free* to do it in every _____, regardless of its effects on others.
2. Our _____ in Christ can and should be _____ limited in order not to cause a believer to sin by violating their conscience. _____ is _____ by _____.
3. Maintaining the unity of the _____ in the bond of _____ may require a believer to _____ personal *rights*.
4. We should avoid _____ that would make newer/weaker believers think _____ of their faith or that would make someone who doesn't follow Jesus feel more _____ in their sin.

REFLECTION / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In 1 Corinthians 8:7, what are the strong believers failing to acknowledge?
2. In 1 Corinthians 8:8, does food make us more or less spiritual?
3. Based on 1 Corinthians 8:9-10, what are some ways we can cause someone to spiritually stumble?
4. In 1 Corinthians 8:11, what happens to a 'weak' believer when they stumble over the 'strong' believer's actions?
5. In 1 Corinthians 8:12, what are the three consequences of encouraging the weaker believer to go against their conscience?
6. In 1 Corinthians 8:13, what conclusion did Paul draw and are there any limitations to these conclusions?

Video Resource: What Would You Say? (whatwouldyousay.org/definitions-matter-freedom)

SONGS

"Found In You" - Paul Baloche and Andi Rozier

"Together In This" - Valley Bible Worship

"Blessed Assurance" - Jeremy Riddle

"Christ Be All Around Me" - David Leonard, Jack Mooring, Leeland Mooring, and Leslie Jordan

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$25,409.00

WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,282,325.04

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,375,608.00