

**HHBC** **The First Epistle to the Corinthians**

**1 Corinth 8:1-6 - Things Sacrificed to Idols and Weaker Brothers 1**

- **1 Corinth 8:1: “Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.”**
  - In this chapter we will be dealing with with the balance between Christian liberty and brotherly love.
  - What kind of things were these?
    - 1 Cor 10:19,20 - What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. Also see 1 Cor 8:10.
      - At this time in Corinth there was no way you could be separated from the pagan idolatry that surrounded them.
      - A good example was the meat offered to idols.
        - » 1/3 was in honor to the idol; 1/3 to the priest who then provided it to the public to be sold; 1/3 was given to the offerer; and it was this 2<sup>nd</sup> 1/3 that caused problems.
  - And is this relevant today?

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- What kind of knowledge is this?
  - Gnosis - the general knowledge of Christian religion, especially of things ‘lawful’ and ‘unlawful’ for Christians.
    - According to the Council at Jerusalem, meat offered to idols was forbidden – Acts 15:28,29.
    - And how might you describe ‘lawful’ and ‘unlawful’?
- Why is knowledge compared to love?
  - Even Christian knowledge can puff up but Christian love is sourced from above.
    - 1 Cor 4:6 - Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.
    - 1 John 4:16 - And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
- **1 Corinth 8:2: “And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.”**

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- An interesting Greek use of the term for know here.
  - if anyone thinks that he knows anything – eido (factual)
    - Rom 11:25 - For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion,
    - Gal 6:3 - For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
  - he knows nothing yet as he ought to know – ginoska
  - How’s this for the premise that incorrectly applied knowledge can puff up – welcome to flesh and pride!
  - True knowledge will make us humble, modest and kind to others.
- **1 Corinth 8:3: “But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.”**
  - Why would God know (ginosko) anyone who loves (agapao) Him?
    - Is this kind of love from our old man (flesh)?
      - No, it’s a special intimacy, and there is an expected response – 2 Tim 2:19.

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- **1 Corinth 8:4: “Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no God but one.”**
  - Meat, but other things?
    - Perhaps but unlikely, and the fact that flesh, wine or fruit were eaten at the feasts and/or later sold in the market for profit was worthless and forbidden, and reflects demonic direction.
  - What does we know (eido) that an idol is nothing in the world indicate?
    - Clearly the idol has mass, but it is without value and deserves no worship.
  - And why is this followed by and that there is no God but one?
    - And God has value, is eternal and He only is worthy of worship.
      - Eph 4:6 - one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
- **1 Corinth 8:5: “For even if there are so-called gods,**

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**whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords),”**

- Truly conditional – even if, so-called
- Is there a distinction between heaven and earth here?
  - as there are many gods and many lords
    - Perceived yet imaginary, esteemed beings with power and rule – idols?
  - Heaven is ouranos
    - Thayer - ‘the vaulted expanse of the sky with all things visible in it’
    - Examples might include Jupiter, Juno, Mercury
  - Earth is ge
    - Thayer - ‘the earth as a whole as opposed to the heavens’
    - Examples – Ceres (earth), Neptune (sea), Pluto (interior).
  - Jer 2:28 - But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble;
  - Gal 4:8 - But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those

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which by nature are not gods.

- **1 Corinth 8:6: “yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.”**
  - Yet for us there is one God – also true of Judaism, Islam.
    - But do these bodies of faith look at Him as the Father of whom are all things, and we for Him?
      - Jer 31:9 – They shall come with weeping, And with supplications I will lead them, I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, In a straight way in which they shall not stumble; For I am a Father to Israel, And Ephraim is My firstborn.
      - Malachi 2:10 - Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another By profaning the covenant of the fathers?
      - Allah’s love is predicated upon the Muslim’s performance and obedience, not on their relationship

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- *And one Lord Jesus Christ through whom are all things?*
  - *John 16:15 - "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*
  - *Col 1:16 - or by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*
- *Do you think this passage by identifying both God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ in any way distracts from the triune God?*
  - *Geneva - 'But as the Father is called Lord, so is the Son therefore God: therefore this word "one" does not regard the persons, but the natures.'*
    - *Heb 1:1,2 - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*
    - *1 Tim 2:5 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*