

L84 | I Corinthians | Pride & Charity | I Cor. 8:1-3

I. Intro/Review:

Corinthian Problems

- 1) Wisdom of the World (1 Cor. 1-4)
- 2) Fornication (1 Cor. 5:1-13)
- 3) Lawsuits (1 Cor. 6:1-11)
- 4) Defilement (1 Cor. 6:12-20)

The Things The Corinthians Wrote to Paul About

- 5) Marriage (1 Cor. 7:1-40)
- 6) Christian Liberties (1 Cor. 8-10)
- 7) Church Conduct (1 Cor. 11:1-34)
- 8) Abuse of Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor. 12-14)
- 9) Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-58)
- 10) Financial Giving (1 Cor. 16:1-9)

II. Preview:

- Enter a new context but within the numerous things the Corinthians wrote Paul about
 - The specific context is idols and meats offered to those idols
 - A similar context to Romans 14 - the stronger and weaker brother/sister
 - The categorical context would be liberties, doubtful disputations
 - We are to operate upon 1 Cor. 6:12
 - Even the things lawful to me by God, I will live by expediency, by charity

III. Sermon:

{1 Corinthians 8:1} - Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

- Significant issue
 - 1 Cor. 8
 - 1 Cor. 10
 - 1 Cor. 11
 - 1 Cor. 12
- "Now as touching things"
 - Paul's address to the "things" in which they have written
 - "touching" - situation, that which surrounds the topic
- **Background to Idols**

First Use

- **{idols}** - Lev. 19:4 - Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am

the LORD your God.

- **{idol}** - 1Kings 15:13 - And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron.
- **{idolatry}** - 1Sam. 15:23 - For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.
 - Rom. 1:18-23
 - Idolatry led to a justification of ungodly behavior
 - Ps. 50:21
 - Gentiles - tower of Babel
 - Jews - high place
 - Deut. 29:17 - "And ye have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them:)"
 - Isa. 44:9-20
 - Ps. 115:4 (135:15) - the work of men's hands
 - Isa. 2:8 - land full of idols, worship the work of their own hands, that which their fingers made
 - Ps. 8:3, 19:1 - God hands, handywork, kiss the Son
 - Ps. 106:36 - were a snare unto them
 - Isa. 54:16
 - Hos. 13:2 - "And idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen:"
 - Hab. 2:18 - "What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?"
 - Ps. 115:1ff
 - 1 Chr. 16:26 (Ps. 96:5)
 - Ps. 97:7
- **"offered unto idols"**
 - Animal sacrifices
 - {4} - "...the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols"
- **"we know that we all have knowledge."**
 - 1 Cor. 1:5 - "that in every thing ye are enriched by Him...and in all knowledge;"

- Paul discerns an issue of pride with a godly knowledge, which leads ungodly conduct
 - Paul discerns another area in which they say it is "lawful", but not expedient.
 - Lawful determined by the world
 - Lawful determined by God
 - Greater principle - "expediency" (wisdom)
 - Paul explains they are not the only ones with this knowledge
 - Paul and those with him have this knowledge
 - Paul wants them to know his conduct
 - {13} - "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."
1. (1 of 4) The first thing Paul does is make them aware they there are others with this knowledge.
- **"Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."**
2. The second thing Paul does is exercises an understanding they don't possess; that is, it isn't having the knowledge, but what you do with it.
- Need to be careful that your knowledge isn't puffing you up
 - The Puffed Corinthians
 - 1 Cor. 4:6 - "...that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."
 - 1 Cor. 4:18 - "Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you."
 - 1 Cor. 4:19 - "...not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power."
 - 1 Cor. 5:2 - "And ye are puffed up"
 - 1 Cor. 13:4 - "charity...is not puffed up,"
 - "knowledge"
 - Need to do - Rom. 1:28
 - Heart takes in the knowledge - 2 Cor. 4:6
 - Love of Christ that passes knowledge - Eph. 3:19
 - Love in knowledge - Php. 1:9
 - Knowledge without love

{1 Corinthians 8:2} - And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

3. "And if any man think that he knoweth any thing"

- Gnosticism - secret knowledge
- Learn new things - Acts 17
- They are "enriched in all knowledge"
 - 1 Cor. 15:34 - "have not the knowledge of God"

- Yet, God wants them to know - given His Spirit for them to "know"
 - 1 Cor. 2 - the mind of Christ
- Know things in a way in which elevates the knower
 - Eze. 28
 - 1 Tim. 3:6 - pride a matter of the heart
- **"he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."**
 - What is peculiar isn't that you know it, but what you know, and who gave it to you, and why

{1 Corinthians 8:3} - But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

4. "But if any man love God, the same is known of him."

- It isn't what you know, but who you know
- It isn't what you know, but what is known of you
- It isn't what you know, but that you love God
- The knowledge of God that enters the mind and received by the heart that then is puffed up, isn't led by the knowledge, but their heart by their own reason.
 - The epitome of pride isn't exaltation in the wisdom of the world, but self-exaltation in the knowledge of God - Satanic.
 - 2 Tim. 3:5 - "form of godliness but denying the power thereof"
 - "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God"
 - Lovers of self rather than God

IV. Conclusion:

- What does that have to do with idolatry and things offered in idolatry?
- Measure your conduct not based upon your knowledge, but based upon the expediency of that knowledge and what should be known of you, not simply the possession of knowledge.
- You can use your liberty for an occasion for the flesh (Gal. 5:13)
- We are even called to use our Christian liberties to by love serve one another. (Gal. 5:6)