

# L85 | I Corinthians | God is Everything | I Cor. 8:4-13

## I. Intro/Review:

1 Corinthians 8:1-3

1. The first thing Paul does is make them aware they there are others with this knowledge.
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.
3. "And if any man think that he knoweth any thing"
4. "But if any man love God, the same is known of him."

## II. Preview:

- The Knowledge of God
  - The Knowledge of the Weaker
  - The Knowledge of the Stronger
  - The Use of Liberty

## III. Sermon:

**The Knowledge of God {4-7}**

**{1 Corinthians 8:4} As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.**

- **"As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols"**
  - Review of the issue of 1 Cor. 8:1 - "touching things offered unto idols"
- **"we know"** - the knowledge of God possessed, learned, and understood
  - Bearing on the conscience (informed)
- **"that an idol is nothing in the world"**
  - Review Lesson 84 and background of "idol(s)" and "idolatry"
  - Idol made from wood, used to warm man, strength of man making idol fails, etc
    - Isa. 44:10 - "who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing?"
    - Acts 19:25 - "...persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:"
  - **"idol"** - isn't a god, the image and appearance of the idol is simply a figurine that has no significance

- **"and that there is none other God but one."**
  - Deut. 10:17 - "For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:"
  - Deut. 32:39 - "See not that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with me..."
  - Dan. 2:47 - "...Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings,..."
  - Dan. 11:36 - "...God of gods..."
  - Ex. 15:11 - "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"
    - Ex. 20:3, 23
    - Ex. 32:1 - Aaron "make us gods"
    - Ex. 34:15 - "...go a whoring after their gods..."
- On the one hand the idol is nothing
- Yet on the other hand there is God - none other God but one.
- God is everything!

**{1 Corinthians 8:5} For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)**

- **"for"** - further explanation of "the knowledge of God"
- **"though there be that are called gods"**
  - Gen. 3:5 - angels, magistrates, principalities
  - Judges 10:6 - gods many
  - 1 Kings 11:33
- **"whether in heaven or in earth,"**
  - **"in heaven"**
    - Exo. 12:12 - "gods of Egypt"
    - Num. 22:41 - "Baal"
    - Judges 9:46 - "Berith" - Schechemitish diety
    - Judges 11:24 - "Chemosh" - Moabite diety
    - Judges 16:23 - "Dagon" - Philistine diety
    - 2 Kings 19:37 - "Nisroch" - Babylonian idol
    - Amos 5:26 - "Moloch" (Ammonites) {Acts 7:43}
    - Acts 14:11 - "Jupiter" and "Mercurius"
  - Job 15:15 - "...yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight."
- **"in earth"**
  - Sennacherib - no gods of other lands and kingdoms could save from his hand
  - Acts 12:22 - Herod - "and the people gave a shout, saying, it is the voice of a god, and not of a man."
  - Acts 28:6 - "...and said that he (Paul) was a god."
  - 2 Cor. 4:4 - "...god of this world..."

- **Galatians 4:8** - "Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods."

**{1 Corinthians 8:6} But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.**

- **"But to us there is but one God, the Father"**
  - Deut. 6:4 - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:"
  - Ephesians 4:6 - "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."
  - 1 Corinthians 11:3 - "...and the head of Christ is God"
  - Matt. 23:9 - "...for one is your Father, which is in heaven."
- **"of whom are all things, and we in Him;"**
  - All things proceed from Him
  - Romans 11:33-36
  - Acts 14:14-18, 17:22-31
- **"and one Lord Jesus Christ"**
  - Eph. 4:5 - "one Lord"
  - John 10:30 - "I am my Father are one."
  - John 17:21 - "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us..."
  - John 1:1-5 - "...all things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made."
  - Heb. 1:3 - "who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power"
- **"by whom are all things, and we by Him."**
  - "by" - the means, the power

#### **The Knowledge of the Weaker**

**{1 Corinthians 8:7} Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.**

- **"Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge:"**
  - Not simply the world, but even Christians
  - Not just that Christ is God, but have conscience that idols have some godness to them and therefore are to be rejected and would be offense because of their weak and ignorant understanding of the "idol."
- **"for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol;"**

- Think the idol is something instead of nothing
- In defense of God and worship of God their conscience is offended at the idol and the thing offered to it
  - Who gave the "food" for gladness of heart? (Acts 14) - God
- **"and their conscience being weak is defiled."**
  - Defiled conscience
    - Conscience polluted by the knowledge of the idol
    - Conscience is corrupted as the idol is something

**{1 Corinthians 8:8} But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.**

- **"But meat commendeth us not to God"** - like circumcision and uncircumcision is of no profit
  - Any profit, nor substantiate us before Him
- **"for neither"** - two options (eat or don't eat)
  1. **"if we eat, are we the better;"** - the puffed up knowledge of the stronger
  2. **"if we eat not, are we the worse."** - the puffed up knowledge of the stronger
    - come short, lack, want, whit behind, need, destitute
    - Weaker brother - if we eat not we would be for the better and to eat would be for the worse
- The excuse and justification of their liberty to "eat".
- Freedom is the ultimate virtue - it isn't, but rather the cause of your eating or not eating - charity

**{1 Corinthians 8:9} But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.**

- Galatians 5:6, 13
- Romans 14:13-23

**{1 Corinthians 8:10} For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;**

**{1 Corinthians 8:11} And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?**

**{1 Corinthians 8:12} But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.**

**{1 Corinthians 8:13} Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.**

#### IV. Conclusion: