



TEACH ME
THE BIBLE PODCAST

STUDY GUIDE

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CHAPTER

8

1 CORINTHIANS

Divisions in the Church



1 Corinthians: Chapter 8

If you are new to the Story of the Bible or would like to review the Story:
Listen to the following TMTB Podcasts:

The Story: Understanding the “Big Story” (30 min)

Old Testament: Walk Through the Broad Story (27 min)

Timeline: New Testament Beginnings (35 min)

Letters: Paul’s Writing to the Churches–Part 1 (30 min)

REVIEW

In Chapter 8, Paul continues to both explain his actions and correct the Corinthians method of judgment. In fact, as we will see in the coming chapters, it is the Corinthians incorrect method of judgment that has brought judgment upon them! One such example of poor judgment is the issue of eating meat sacrificed to idols. As Paul explains, it is not the “liberty” that one should be concerned about but the “stumbling” that such liberty may cause another.



1 Corinthians: Chapter 8

MONDAY

Listen to the Chapter 8 podcast.

TUESDAY

1 Corinthians 8:1 is a verse that is often partially quoted, “...*Knowledge puffs up...*” But, what exactly is Paul saying? In 1 Corinthians, the Corinthians claim to have “knowledge” and therefore feel that they have the “authority” or “liberty” to eat meat sacrificed to idols. The same word for “knowledge” is used in 1:5, throughout chapter 8 (in verses 1 (2x), 7, 10, and 11, in 12:8, 13:2 and 8, and 14:6).

Can you “connect the dots” of Paul’s argument?

- Who has “knowledge” in 1:5? Pay close attention to the pronouns.
- Who has knowledge in 13:2?
- Do the Corinthians believe that they have knowledge in chapter 8?
- Who is becoming “boastful”? (See 4:6, 18, 19; 5:2; 8:1; and 13:4).

WEDNESDAY

In 1 Corinthians 7:37; 8:9; 9:4, 5, 6, 12, 18; 11:10; and 15:24, Paul uses the Greek word *exousia* which is variously translated.

Read through these verses and see if this helps you track Paul’s argument.



1 Corinthians: Chapter 8

THURSDAY

In 1 Corinthians 6:12, and again in 10:23, Paul states that *“all things are lawful, but not all things are profitable.”* In 10:23 he follows that statement with these words: *“All things are lawful, but not all things edify.”* In chapter 8 Paul explains “knowledge” and discusses “meat sacrificed to idols?”

How does what Paul says in chapter 8 fit together with what he says in 10:19?

How does 10:23 fit in?

FRIDAY

In 1 Corinthians 8:13 Paul states, *“...Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.”*

Read chapter 8 again and try to put it into Paul’s argument.

Is the issue that Paul is addressing only about “meat”? If not (and it is not), then is Paul presenting a truth or principle that ought to be applied in every area of our lives?

Reflect on this and make a mental list (or better, or real list) of areas in which you see this applying.