

Don't Become a Stumbling Block! | 1 Corinthians 8

1 Corinthians 8

Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that “we all have knowledge” about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.

What is a good way to approach decisions that may impact someone else's personal convictions?

- Practical examples: What you can watch, wear, places you can go, things you can do, what you can post, substances you can partake in.
- Let me give you the 3 ways to approach these decisions...
 - Humble Yourself
 - Consider Others
 - Choose what best Glorifies Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 8:2-3 NLT

² Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much. ³ But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes.

2 Timothy 3:1-3 (ESV)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,

HUMBLE YOURSELF

1 Corinthians 8:4-6 (NLT)

⁴ So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. ⁵ There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. ⁶ But for us, There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live.

IDOLS ARE INCAPABLE OF BEING GOD

1 Corinthians 8:7-8 (NLT)

⁷ However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. ⁸ It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat. We don't lose anything if we don't eat it, and we don't gain anything if we do.

1 Corinthians 8:9-11(NLT)

⁹ But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble. ¹⁰ For if others see you—with your “superior knowledge”—eating in the temple of an idol, won't they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? ¹¹ So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed.

Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV)

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

CONSIDER OTHERS FIRST**1 Corinthians 8:12-13 (NLT)**

¹² And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ. ¹³ So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don't want to cause another believer to stumble.

CHOOSE WHAT BEST GLORIFIES CHRIST