

“Can I Be Right and Still Be Wrong?”

1 Corinthians 8:1-8

Fractured: How God Restores a Broken Church

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The occurrence was known as “the _____ incident.”

- It wasn't wrong for the roommate to make his peanut butter sandwich in the kitchen. Yet, to not take into consideration his roommate with the severe peanut allergy? *That's* what was wrong.

So, I suppose it IS possible to be right and still be wrong.

In order to really wrap our heads around this concept... let's explore some real-world _____.

- The restaurant complaint, the marriage argument, the political debate, the alcohol dilemma, the worship style preference, the manager/employee correction, the social media correction, the church tradition, the “argue them into the kingdom” evangelistic approach, _____

What happens when being right becomes _____ important? Which one of the following list of what happens have you personally experienced in your life? Place a check in that box.

- ☐ Pride grows. *I begin measuring maturity by the accumulation of biblical knowledge rather than how I love.*
- ☐ People get hurt. *I can use truth as a weapon instead of using truth to build someone up.*
- ☐ Relationships suffer. *Winning the argument becomes more important than loving the person.*
- ☐ Compassion disappears. *I stop asking, “Where is this person coming from?” because I'm proving my position.*
- ☐ Unity breaks down. *Differences that could have been handled graciously become dividing lines.*
- ☐ My witness suffers. *People hear correct words about Jesus while seeing an attitude that doesn't resemble Jesus.*
- ☐ I stop growing. *Once I'm convinced that I'm the one who knows, I become increasingly difficult to teach or correct.*

So what do I do when I _____ I'm right? What if I really do have the liberty (freedom) to do something?

- Is being right enough? Or is there something more important at stake here? *Let's explore the main passage and find out!*

1 Corinthians 8:1-8

1. VV 1-3... Being right is never a substitute for being _____. (1 Cor 6:7; Jas 3:13)

- Have you grown into that place where you're okay with being wrong even though you're right? Y/N

2. **VV 4-6...** Know what is true without becoming _____ of what you know. (1 Cor 13:2; Rom 12:3)
- Growing in your knowledge of the Bible is important. It's also important to explore *why*. Is it to gain status? Recognition? To feel superior? Dominate conversations?
3. **VV 7-8...** My liberty (freedom) must take into consideration the _____ of others.
- Sure, this liberty I engage in is not sinful, yet the conscience of a fellow brother or sister in Christ may not allow them to embrace the liberty. (Rom 14:13-15; 22-23; 15:1-2)

CALLS-TO-ACTION

1. **Let someone else have the LAST WORD.** Not every incorrect statement needs your correction, and not every disagreement needs your response.
2. **Examine WHY you want to be right.** Before correcting someone, ask: *"Am I trying to help them—or prove something about myself?"*
3. **Apologize for a time when you were RIGHT but acted WRONG.** Don't apologize for the truth. Apologize for the pride, harshness, disrespect, or lack of love in how you handled it.
4. **Learn the STORY behind someone else's conviction.** Instead of immediately thinking, *"There's nothing wrong with that!"* ask why that issue matters to them.
5. **Stop using KNOWLEDGE to measure spiritual maturity.** Ask yourself: *"Is everything I'm learning about Jesus actually making me more like Jesus?"*
6. **Practice keeping your MOUTH shut.** This week, when you have the opportunity to prove that you're right about something insignificant, deliberately let it go.
7. **Respect another believer's CONSCIENCE without mocking it.** Even when you believe their conviction is unnecessary, don't belittle them for where they currently are.
8. **Ask someone you trust a dangerous question:** *"Do I come across as someone who always has to be right?"* Then listen without defending yourself.

GOING DEEPER

Go through this note sheet with your Growth Group and/or your family at the dinner table. Bring this note sheet to your work or school and discuss it with someone over lunch. Read the main passage and look up all of the supporting verses. Pray with one another.

1. Which box did you place a check in regarding what happens when being right is most important?
2. Which one of the calls-to-action did you commit to following through with and why?
3. When specifically have you been right about something but wrong in the way you handled it?
4. How can you tell when biblical knowledge is producing humility versus feeding your pride?
5. Why can winning an argument do more harm than simply allowing yourself to be wronged?
6. What is one area where you find it especially difficult to let someone else be "right"?
7. How can you disagree with someone while still making them feel genuinely loved and respected?
8. What liberty do you enjoy that another might struggle to embrace with a clear conscience?