

KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE

- 1 Cor 8:1-3
- 8 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. 2 And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.
- Note the distinction between knowledge and love. Knowledge puffs up and love builds up.

IT'S JUST MEAT

- 1 Cor 8:4-6
- 4 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.
- Knowledge gives us the facts. There is nothing wrong with the meat.

IS MY FREEDOM HURTING MY BROTHER?

- 1 Cor 8:7-10
- 7 However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.
- 9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

IS MY FREEDOM HURTING MY BROTHER?

- 1 Cor 8:10-11
- 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? 11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?
- Paul uses a vivid scenario to help the brother who is strong, see through the eyes of the weaker brother.

IS MY FREEDOM HURTING MY BROTHER?

- 1 Cor 8:12-13
- 12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.
- Note the measure that love is willing to take in order keep a brother from falling away from Christ. Sometimes this may be necessary, until believers are able to gain knowledge, and walk in freedom.