

A Beautiful Mess: Week 9

July 14, 2019

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 8-10

Bottom Line: Knowledge is nothing without love, and love means being willing to sacrifice for the good of someone else.

The Corinthians were convinced that they should still be able to partake in meals at pagan temples, because they knew that idols aren't real, and God doesn't care what we eat.

Paul's Response

Knowledge is Nothing Without Love

- Knowledge puffs you up, love builds others up
- Right theology without love is a weapon that does damage inside and outside the Church

Give Up What's Good to You for What's Best for Someone Else

- The "strong" need to consider the "weak"
- When we give up our rights for someone else's good, we're following the way of Jesus

Regarding Food Sacrificed to Idols . . .

- Participating in pagan ceremonies is participating with demons
- Outside of that context, that meat is just meat

We're Not All at the Same Place, And That's Okay

- Some of us need more knowledge, others need to grow in love
- Let's give each other a little grace

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Appetizer

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. Have you ever done something that made other Christians looked at you sideways?

Entree

1. What does freedom in Christ look like to you? What impact does that have on what we do?
2. Read **Romans 14:14-23**.
 - a. How do you make sense of this passage? Is it different from what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 8 and 10?
3. What issues do you think fall into the categories that Paul is talking about? What's a modern equivalent for food?
4. What do you think about the possibility of worshipping something other than God by what we give our allegiance to?
5. Do you need to grow in knowledge or love?

Dessert

Break into groups of 3-5 and discuss the following questions together.

1. Is there an area of your life where you might be close to committing idolatry? Is something taking the attention, allegiance, and care that should only be given to God?
2. What can you do this week to start making a change?

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