

To Eat or Not to Eat?

April 3, 2022

INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

- Knowledge puffs up, love builds up (vs. 1b)
- Be careful you don't too quickly assume your conscience is superior (vs. 2)
- It's not how much you know, but how much you love (vs. 3)

Now to the topic at hand...

- There are no actual "gods" because there is only one God. As such, meat offered to this supposed "god" is just meat (vs. 4-8)
- BUT... remember, Love will often limit personal Liberty (vs. 9-13)

1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

- Flee from idolatry (vs. 14)
- Sometimes a particular activity is so strongly associated with evil that believers should have nothing to do with it (vs. 15-22)
- Just because it's permissible, does not make it beneficial (vs. 23-24)

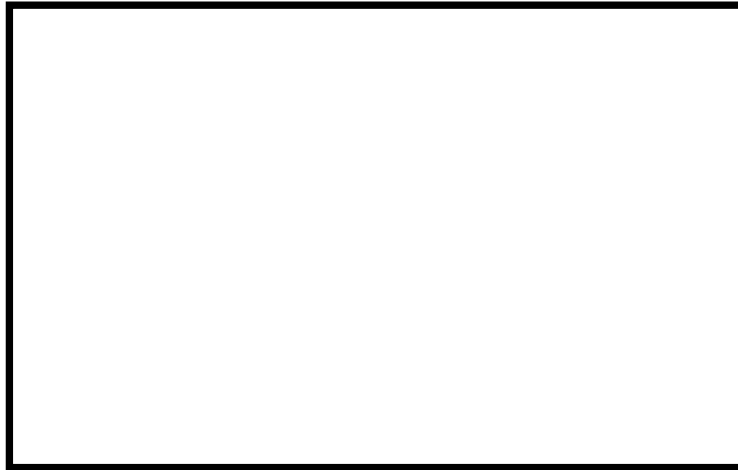
In summary then...

- Do not be afraid to enjoy an activity that you can enjoy with no qualm of conscience (vs. 25-26)
- BUT again, if your liberty will unnecessarily offend a brother or sister then do not do it publicly (vs. 27-29a)
- BUT do not allow their more sensitive conscience to condemn yours (vs. 29b-30)
- Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God, the building up of the believer, the pursuit of the lost (vs. 31-11:1; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

Romans 14:1-23

- Accept one another, no quarreling, no judgment (1-4a)
- Believe that God is still working on that brother or sister and WILL finish the good work of sanctification in their life (vs. 4b)
- Be fully convinced in your own mind and do all things for the glory of God (vs. 5-9)
- Do not pass judgment on your brother or sister. That's God's job. And for you too! (vs. 10-13a)
- Instead, determine to not be a stumbling block (vs. 13b-15)
- BUT do not allow your conscience to be condemned by someone else either (vs. 16)
- Why? Because the Kingdom of God is not about fine-tuning our personal holiness, comparing ourselves with ourselves. Rather, it's about a supernatural righteousness, peace and joy in the Spirit (vs. 17-18)
- There are bigger battles to fight (vs. 19-22a)
- Make sure everything you do is from faith and not violating your conscience (vs. 22b-23)

Bounded Set vs. Centered Set



Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. What are examples of current “disputable matters” (Romans 14:1)?
2. What principles from 1 Corinthians and Romans stood out as most important to you in your journey right now?
3. What “boxes” are you tempted to think are the right ones? In what ways do you struggle to not judge those who are not inside your box?
4. What would living in a centered set kind of way look like for this same conviction?
5. How does living in a centered set kind of way promote true “iron sharpening iron” conversations?

Suggested Resource: [On Matters of Conscience, How Do You Decide? Article by David W. Jones](#)