

## 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (September 11, 2022)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### BIBLE PASSAGE STUDY QUESTIONS: READ 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Note regarding food offered to idols: "Because pagan temples offered parts of animals in sacrifice to the gods, they also often functioned as butcher shops and banquet halls. Sometimes meals for trade guilds, clubs, and private dinner parties were held in a temple dining room. Often meat from a temple was sold to the public in the marketplace."  
(ESV Crossway Study Bible re: 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1)

1. Paul opens and closes this passage with cautions about knowledge. Discuss the pros and cons of having "knowledge".  
Comment on the following quote and how it is relevant to this passage: "Knowing things can make our egos and heads bigger; loving people can make our brothers and sisters bigger" (Andrew Wilson).

2. 1 Corinthians 8:3 states, "But if anyone loves God, he is known by God."  
Is Paul saying if a person loves God, God rewards him by recognizing him?  
Explain your answer and why you think Paul said this in response to the issue of eating food offered to idols. (John 10:14; Galatians 4:9; 1 John 4:7, 19-20).

3. Some newer/weaker believers in Corinth (who lived in a culture that feared what the gods might do if they failed to appease them) may have struggled to place their trust solely in Christ. After referring to the “so-called gods”, Paul proclaims, “yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.” (1 Corinthians 8:5-6).  
How might this statement have helped believers in that culture?  
How does this statement help you as you face the “gods” in our current culture?

4. What we eat or not eat does not matter to God, but according to 1 Corinthians 8:9-13; Romans 14:15, 20-21, what does matter?

5. This passage reveals how believers’ actions impact others. Give examples of how the actions of other believers have helped or hindered you in your walk and/or how your actions may have influenced others.