

1 Corinthians 8

1. Review

What is love? Can love be sinful?

1-3

1. "We all have knowledge" is another slogan of the Corinthians.
2. Why does "knowledge puffs up"?
3. Does love come from knowing God first or from God knowing the person first?
4. Here we see that love shows itself in humility.

4-6

1. Paul concedes here that yes idol-foods are just food for there is but one God.
2. Once again, we get some more slogans from the Corinthians, but these are more based on Scripture than the others.
 - a. "there is no idol in the world"
 - i. Ps 115:3-8
 - ii. Is 44:9-20
 - b. "There is no God but one"
 - i. Echoes the *Shema* in Deut 6:4, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one!"
3. Here we get a glimpse into an early church creed.
4. What argument then are the "knowledgeable" ones making with eating idol food?

7-13

1. Paul acknowledges that those who have knowledge are right but at the same time shows that if those who have knowledge do not apply it in Christian love then all it does is puff up.

2. What are the “weak” struggling with?
3. Having a clear conscience was important to Paul.
 - a. Acts 23:1; 24:16
 - b. 1 Timothy 1:5; 19; 3:9
 - c. Titus 1:15
4. Should we be concerned about our brother and sisters’ consciousness?
5. 8:8a some argue is another slogan of the Corinthians, “food will not present us to God”.
6. What mattered to Paul was not food or drink nor circumcision but “faith active in love”. Thus, if you did not participate in idol-food you were not missing out. However, if you did you should not think yourself superior.
 - a. Gal 5:6; 6:15
 - b. 1 Cor 7:19
7. Pay attention to the pronouns used in 10-12.
8. If you cause your brother to stumble because of your disregard for their conscience, who are you sinning against?
9. What would Paul do, and what is he calling us to do?
10. If your brother or sister is struggling with something that is adiaphora, what should we do?