**Living in Christian Liberty**

1 Corinthians 8

**1 Corinthians 8:1 (ESV)**Now concerning food offered to idols …

1. **Balancing knowledge with compassion.**

**1 Corinthians 8:1 (ESV)**Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.

**1 Corinthians 8:2 (ESV)**If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.

**1 Corinthians 8:3 (ESV)**But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

**1 Corinthians 8:4 (ESV)**Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”

**1 Corinthians 8:5 (ESV)**For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—

**1 Corinthians 8:6 (ESV)**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 8:7a (ESV)**However, not all possess this knowledge.

**Psalm 115:4 (ESV)**Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

**Psalm 115:5 (ESV)**They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.

**Psalm 115:6 (ESV)**They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.

**Psalm 115:7 (ESV)**They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.

1. **Balancing individuality with community.**

**1 Corinthians 8:7b (ESV)**But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

**1 Corinthians 8:8 (ESV)**Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.

**1 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)**But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

**1 Corinthians 8:10 (ESV)**For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols?

**1 Corinthians 8:11 (ESV)**And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.

**Mark 7:15 (ESV)**There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.”

**Romans 15:2 (ESV)**Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

1. **Balancing freedom with consideration.**

**1 Corinthians 8:12 (ESV)**Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

**1 Corinthians 8:13 (ESV)**Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

**1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)**So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.