

True Bounds of Christian freedom: food sacrificed to idols (1 Cor 8:1-12) (v 1-3)

- Chapter 8- 10 continue the question of Paul's answer to the question in ch 7:1
- All 3 chapters deal with questionable practices: center on food sacrificed idols
- The basic questions of Christian freedom that the Corinthians faced face us all
- 2 extremes, legalism: law, rules, regulations. License: everything permissible
- License: as long as your conscience is free, go & do whatever you desire
- While we have freedom, our freedom must be governed & ruled by love.
- In answer to the specific question about food sacrificed to idols Paul gives general principles in Ch 8, he illustrates it in 9:1-10 & 13, he applies it:10:1-31
- In preparation for giving these 3 principles, Paul responds to 3 reasons some have for feeling completely free to act as they pleased regarding their freedom
- The reason 1) we all know we have knowledge 2) we know that an idol is nothing 2) we know that food is not the issue with God.

I. We Know that We all Have Knowledge (8: 1-3)

- Vs "Now concerning things offered to idols" lit. translated "Idol sacrifices"
- The issue was eating food that had been symbolically offered to idols.
- It was a common belief/ problem, evil spirits attach to meat, invade people –
- The answer: to offer the meat to the plethora of gods who cleanse the meat
- Priests could not eat all the meat offered to false gods – sold in the market
- public highly valued meat at feasts/celebration, concern for some believers
- for other believers this was not a problem, understood idols were false gods
- Paul's responds: 1 "We all know we have knowledge" but knowledge leads to
- It leads to pride " knowledge puffs up" antidote to pride "love edifies"
- Knowledge without love is pride, knowledge with love is maturity