

True Bounds of Christian Freedom (1 Corinthians 8:4-13)

- In v.1-3 we looked Paul addressing the argument: v 1 “we all have knowledge”
- Paul warns us “knowledge” without love is dangerous – “it puffs up”
- If that knowledge is tempered and grounded in love it “edifies” it “builds up”
- Knowledge: leads to selfishness & not selflessness: our knowledge is empty
- If we love God, His love circumscribes our freedom and we are known by Him

II. We Know That an Idol is Nothing (8: 4-7)

- The knowledge the Corinthians had was good “an idol has no real existence”
- Reflects: imagination of the one who designed it/demon deceives through it
- Paul’s answer: there is no God but One – there are false gods/demons (v.4)
- Paul continues: v.6: from this One God all things exist & one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
- Paul warns not all are mature in this knowledge: v.7 – believe other gods exist
- They were tempted to fall back into former practices, their consciences weak
- Paul’s warning: one who leads a weaker brother to defile his conscience: sins

III. We Know that Food is not the Issue with God (8:8-12)

- Paul agrees eating or not eating the food had not spiritual significance in itself

Vs 8 But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. (Mark 7:15)

- Food makes not different for food’s sake, for ceremony’s sake, or God’s sake
- But it can make a difference for the sake of conscience of some of his children
- Vs 11 to cause your brother to sin against his conscience though yours is free “is to participate in the destruction of a brother for whose sake Christ died.”
- To encourage a brother to sin against conscience, is to sin against Christ (12)
- We should eagerly limit our liberty at anytime for sake of our brother (v.13)