

GOSPEL of Grace FELLOWSHIP

1 Corinthians 8:7-9

Knowledge, Food, Conscience & Rights

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Dangerous Misuse of Knowledge

1 Corinthians 8:7 (ESV)

However, **not all possess this knowledge**. But some, through former **association** with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and **their conscience, being weak, is defiled**.

- This refers to their slogans (vss 1-6) about knowledge, idols, and God's existence
- The elitist's knowledge could ruin a fellow believer and lead to stumbling

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Four Key Terms in Verse 7

- Knowledge (*gno_sis*)
- Association (*sune_theia*)
- Conscience (*suneide_sis*)
- Defiled (*moluno_*)

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Food and Standing in God's Eyes

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.

- There are many issues/debates concerning this verse including possible slogans
- Our standing before God is secure (1:5-8)
- The elitists may have claimed superior knowledge and thus freedom to eat
- 'Commend' is *pariste_mi* 'stand before'

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Beware of Abusing "Rights"

1 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)

But take care that this **right** of yours does not somehow become a **stumbling block to the weak**.

- "Take care" is *blepo_* 'watch out!'
- "Right" is *exousia* (authority)
- "stumbling block" is *proskomma* (6x NT) and is found in LXX Isaiah 8:14 = Christ
- Vs 8 spoke of standing, stumbling is the opposite

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Implications and Applications

- The human conscience is important but not decisive
- Christ will enable all to stand because of His finished work

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Self Awareness Is Not Decisive

1 Corinthians 4:4-5a (NASB)

For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts;

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Paul Lived and Preached the Truth

2 Corinthians 4:2 (NASB)

but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

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Grace to Stand Firm

1 Corinthians 1:4-6 (NASB)

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,

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Gifted and Secure

1 Corinthians 1:7-8 (NASB)

so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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