

Love + Liberty

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Love & Liberty 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

Review (Corinthians 8:1-3)

1. Without love, knowledge of God's Word undermines the wellbeing of the Christian community.
2. The Particular Issue: The believer's freedom to participate in an unbelieving culture's practices.
3. The Insight Needed: Love, not mere theological knowledge, serves as the foundation for determining matters of freedom.

Paul affirms the "knowledge" of the Corinthians... (4)

1 Cor. 8:4 *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."*

What knowledge forms the basis of the Corinthian's actions?

1. Idols hold no genuine reality in the world...
2. ...because there is only one God.

... but qualifies his affirmation in order to get to the heart of the issue (5-6).

1. We must acknowledge the cultural worldviews within our culture.

1 Cor. 8:5 *For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—*

Pagan religion in the Greco-Roman world:

"The 'gods' designate traditional deities, who are regularly given this [title] in the literature but are seldom referred to as 'lords'. The term 'lords,' on the other hand, is the normal title for the deities of the mystery cults." – Fee

Mystery cults required initiation.

1 Cor. 10:20a *No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God.*

2. Our relationship to God determines how we make ethical decisions.

1 Cor. 8:6 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 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

1 Corinthians 8:6 Catechism:

God as Father	Jesus as Son
God as creator of life	Jesus as source of life
We exist for His purposes	We now exist as sons.

Reflection/Discussion

1. Identify forms of idolatry in our own culture. How have these "gods" or "lords" influenced your own life?
2. Write out a sentence or two identifying the relationship between love and knowledge.
3. Compare the empty promises of the world/culture with the true/rich promises of God. Where does your trust lie?
4. How are you doing with viewing life through the lens of 1 Cor. 8:6?

SONGS

"Your Grace Is Enough" – Matt Maher

"Exalted Over All" - Andi Rozier, Jason Ingram, and Jess Cates

"Hiding Place" – Valley Bible Worship

"What A Beautiful Name" – Ben Fielding and Brooke Fraser

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$24,556.54
WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,256,916.04
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,340,336.00