

— ACTS —

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MUSIC: REBECCA PETERSEN

DATE: JULY 6TH, 2025

Free to Love Like Jesus (Part 1)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

NOTES:

Review:

1. The Jerusalem Council's decision - circumcision not necessary (Acts 15:19-23)
2. Paul circumcises Timothy (Acts 16:1-5)

Keeping God Central is Necessary and Protects Us From the Potential Dangers of "Knowledge" Within Our Fellowship

1. The Particular Issue: The believer's freedom to participate in an unbelieving culture's practices.

1Cor. 8:1a *Now concerning food offered to idols*

2. The Insight Needed: Love, not mere theological knowledge, serves as the foundation for determining matters of freedom.

- a. Beware the temptation to resolve issues based on a cold, intellectual grasp of God's word.

1Cor. 8:1b *we know that "all of us possess knowledge"*

- b. Focus on love instead of mere intellectual assessment.

1Cor. 8:1c *This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.*

1Cor. 13:2 *And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

- c. Resolve that prideful "knowing" misses the point of growing as believers – it's about loving God.

1Cor. 8:2 *If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.*

1 John 4:19 *We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

3. The Conciliation: Knowledge of truth is important amidst a secular culture.

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

4. The Goal: The basis of decision-making issues from our loving relationship with God, not mere knowledge.

1Cor. 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.*

5. The Danger of Missing the Goal: When personal preference takes priority over loving one another people get hurt.

1Cor. 8:7 *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. 8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 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? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.*

Review/Discuss/Apply:

1. What helps you keep God (his character, his attributes, his love) central in your life? How does his centrality influence the ways you treat others? Take some time to journal and pray glorifying and thanking God for who he is.

2. How does keeping God central influence the way you love others? How can exercising your own freedoms/preferences become a “stumbling block” for others around you? How does Jesus’ example encourage and challenge you to live sacrificially?

SONGS

GLORIOUS DAY

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD

GOODNESS OF GOD

FIRM FOUNDATION (HE WON'T)

ALTAMONT PROGRESS REPORT

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BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$22,558.63

2025 Year to Date Giving: \$839,341.24

2025 Giving vs Need: \$187,138.76 Below Need

Altamont Expansion Fund: \$226,934.04

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