

# Love in Disputable Matters

## 1 Corinthians 8 – A Higher Calling

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup>But the man who loves God is known by God.

<sup>4</sup>So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. <sup>5</sup>For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), <sup>6</sup>yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

<sup>7</sup>But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.

<sup>8</sup>But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

<sup>9</sup>Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, won’t he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup>When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall. NIV84

**The key to disputable matters:** \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 ... Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up...

Romans 14:1 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

Romans 15:7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

**Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_, not on disputable matters.**

1 Corinthians 8:10-11 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, won’t he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. NIV84

Romans 14:15 If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died.

**Don’t appoint yourself the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.**

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

1 Corinthians 8:8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

\_\_\_\_\_ **over** \_\_\_\_\_ **to help others not stumble.**

1 Corinthians 8:13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

Romans 14:13-21 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister...

<sup>19</sup>Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. <sup>20</sup>Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. <sup>21</sup>It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.