

# Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

## 1 Corinthians 8

### Lesson 13

After answering questions about marriage in 1 Corinthians 7, Paul turned to address a subject that was controversial at that time, but is of little interest to us today – the question of eating meat sacrificed to idols. Although the subject does not pertain to believers today, the principle is vital. What should be the determining factor as we decide whether an action is appropriate or not? Paul provides for us that answer in 1 Corinthians 8.

### DAYS ONE and TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 8

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. 1 Corinthians 8 has been divided into two sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

**Verses 1-6**

**Verses 7-13**

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each segment division, record a title for chapter 8

- a. 2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lesson: *God, Jesus, Paul, and the recipients of the letter.*

New to this lesson: *know, knowledge, idol(s), and eat*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 8. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Jesus, and Paul*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers them – only those that you feel are significant.

- a. 3. Using the chart provided with your Observation Worksheets, add any information you feel is pertinent about the **Author(s)**, the **Recipients**, **Problems**, and **Commands**.
  4. Paul uses the term *therefore* two times in 1 Corinthians 8. The word *therefore* is used to express a conclusion arrived at by the author. Mark the word *therefore* in verses 4 and 13 and record the conclusions expressed by Paul.

5. The word *knowledge* occurs five times. Make a list of what these verses reveal about *knowledge*.

v. 1 We \_\_\_\_\_ *knowledge*.

*Knowledge* \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 7 There is not \_\_\_\_\_ that *knowledge*.

v. 10 If anyone sees \_\_\_\_\_ *knowledge* \_\_\_\_\_ in an idol's temple, will not the \_\_\_\_\_ of him who is \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ those things offered to idols?

v. 11 Because of your *knowledge* shall the \_\_\_\_\_ perish?

### DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

1. As we do not have the letter written from the Corinthians, which contained the questions presented to Paul, we can only guess what they would have been. Paul begins this chapter with the statement: *Now concerning things offered to idols*. After reading this chapter, what do you think their question might have been?

a. With what phrase did Paul begin his answer? (middle of verse 1)

2. *We*, as believers, may *all have knowledge*. However, *knowledge* alone can be detrimental. What does verse 1 say about *knowledge*?

a. Record from the following verses, the evidence that the Corinthians believers had become *puffed up*:

1 Corinthians 4:18

1 Corinthians 5:2

3. *Knowledge puffs up*. What does *love* do?

a. Explain the difference between *puffed up* and *edifies*.

b. Using the following verses, record the benefits of *love* versus *knowledge*:

Isaiah 5:21

1 Corinthians 13:1-4

4. According to 1 Corinthians 8:2,3, why is love for God more important than any knowledge we might possess?
  - a. What does it mean to you to know that you are *known by Him*?

*The LORD is good,  
A stronghold in the day of trouble;  
And He knows those who trust in Him.  
- Nahum 1:7*

**DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 8:4-6**

1. *Therefore, concerning the eating of things offered to idols, what two things do we know?* verse 4
  - a. Using Psalm 115:4-8, describe the powerlessness or *nothingness* of *idols*.
  
2. *There is no other God but one* (1 Corinthians 8:4c). Verify this using Deuteronomy 4:39 and Isaiah 37:16.
  
3. Fill in the blanks from 1 Corinthians 8:6: *yet for us there is \_\_\_\_\_, the Father, of \_\_\_\_\_, and we for Him; and \_\_\_\_\_, through \_\_\_\_\_, through \_\_\_\_\_.*
  - a. *Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God* (Isaiah 44:6). Jesus, as He was speaking to John in the book of Revelation revealed Himself as the God of Isaiah 44:6. Verify this using Revelation 1:8 and 2:8.

4. It is essential for believers to have *knowledge* and understanding of the Biblical doctrine referred to in this paragraph. All believers need to know that *even if there are so-called gods* (verse 5), there is *but one God* and *one Lord Jesus Christ* (verse 6); that idols are *nothing, empty, and void of power*. When that *knowledge* produces harsh, insensitive, dogmatic attitudes of superiority, what is missing?
  - a. *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall* (Proverbs 16:18). What one word identifies the root source of this attitude?
    - 1.) According to Proverbs 13:10, what results from *pride*?
  - b. How does *love* deflate *pride*?
5. Describe how the use of *knowledge* without *love* has made you feel.

*The world will not care what we know until they know we care.*

- Gene Barron

#### **DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 8:7-13**

1. Not everyone in the Corinthian church had this knowledge about idols (verse 4-6). If these Christians of verse 7 ate food offered to idols, what happened to their *weak conscience*?
  - a. What is your initial reaction to the word *weak* describing their conscience? Why?
  - b. Explain the meaning of a *defiled* conscience by using synonyms.
2. In 1 Corinthians 8:8, Paul restates the conviction of the strong believers in Corinth. Eating the meat offered to idols did not make anyone better or worse; it did not make the believers weak or strong, more acceptable to God or less acceptable to Him. They had the liberty to eat it or not eat it. But in Corinthians 8:9 they, the strong, are confronted with the influence their liberty had on a weaker believer. Therefore, there is a principle of responsibility given here that they must apply. Print here the principle we are to follow from 1 Corinthians 8:9.

- a. Read and list each of the consequences that could result from the strong believers' irresponsible influence on the weak believer from the following verses:

8:7c

8:9

8:10

8:11

8:12

8:13a

8:13b

- 1.) When we so wound a weak believer, Who are we sinning against? verse 12c

- b. In recognition of the devastating results of misused *liberty*, what strong commitment does Paul make concerning his liberty? verse 13

- 1.) In what way is this a role model for us?

3. What application do you find in 1 Corinthians 8:7-13 for believers today?

- a. Give a practical example of a *stumbling block* effect a strong believer could have on a weaker believer.

Challenge: Scan Romans 14 and choose a verse or phrase to add to your understanding of 1 Corinthians 8.

*Some sought the solution to the problem from the standpoint of their knowledge and their rights.*

*The apostle finds it from the standpoint of love and its obligations.*

*- selected*

## DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 8

1. In what way can *knowledge puff up* a person?
2. What questions might we asked ourselves to determine whether we are reacting in *love* rather than simply spouting our *knowledge*?
3. Why is it more important to *be known by God* than to know about God?
4. What was Paul's counsel to the Corinthian believers regarding food sacrificed to idols?
5. What have you learned from this study that will contribute to your strengthening, rather than *stumbling*, another believer?

*...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking,  
but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

*- Romans 14:17*

## Scripture References for Lesson 13

### DAY THREE:

**1 Cor. 4:18** Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you.

**1 Cor. 5:2** And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

**Isaiah 5:21** Woe to *those who are* wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!

**1 Cor. 13:1-4** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. <sup>4</sup>Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

**Nahum 1:7** The LORD *is* good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.

### DAY FOUR:

**Psalms 115:4-8** Their idols *are* silver and gold, The work of men's hands. <sup>5</sup>They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; <sup>6</sup>They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; <sup>7</sup>They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. <sup>8</sup>Those who make them are like them; *So is* everyone who trusts in them.

**Deut. 4:39** Therefore know this day, and consider *it* in your heart, that the LORD Himself *is* God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; *there is* no other.

**Isaiah 37:16** "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, *the One* who dwells *between* the cherubim, You *are* God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

**Isaiah 44:6** "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I *am* the First and I *am* the Last; Besides Me *there is* no God.

**Rev. 1:8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

**Rev. 2:8** "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:'

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

**Proverbs 13:10** By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised *is* wisdom.

### DAY SIX:

**Romans 14:17** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.