

1 Corinthians 20 – 8:1-9

Meat and Idols

1. Overview

- a. The recurrent theme is abusing liberty to the destruction of others
- b. Meat (food) to idols is still an issue for the saints in other countries
- c. Meat/ drink are still issues today: Mass, Kosher, Lord's table, drinking, fasting.
- d. The law and the twelve forbade it: Deut 14:2, Acts 10:14, 15:28-29
- e. The Gentiles did it in idolatry – Acts 17:16, 1 Cor 5:11
- f. Paul says we're not under the law of meats: Col 2:16, Rom 14:17, 1 Cor 8:8
- g. The Corinthians were selfish and boasted in their liberty – Gal 5:13

2. 8:1-3 – Knowledge and Charity

- a. The puffed up (proud) Corinthians – 1 Cor 4:6-7, 4:18-19, 5:2, 5:6, 11:21, 14:4
- b. Charity is the right word: it is not selfish; it rejoices in the truth – 1 Cor 13:4-6
- c. Knowing the mysteries is not the end, the mind of Christ is - 1 Cor 13:2, Phil 2:13
 - i. The humiliation of Jesus was not about giving up his nature – Phil 2:6-8
- d. "He knows nothing": A wise man submits to learning - Prov 16:23, 1 Tim 6:3
- e. Remember Job? What we know is to God's glory: Job 38:1-3, Rom 16:27

3. 8:4-6 – An Idol is Nothing

- a. We know this situation better than the previous chapter
- b. An idol was nothing: Jer 10:3-6, Isa 41:6-10, 22-23, 44:6-19; 45:20-22, Hab 2:18-19
- c. Angels and those in authority are called lords and gods – Psa 82:1, Gal 4:1
- d. There is one God who gets glory: 1 Tim 2:5, Eph 4:6, Acts 17:26, Rom 11:36
- e. The Father is not God without the Son and the Spirit: 2Cor 3:17, Col 2:9,1 John 5:7
- f. It is by Christ that we are saved - Phil 2:11, Rom 5:21, 2 Cor 5:18, 1 Cor 1:4

4. 8:7-9 – Catering to the Weak

- a. "conscience of the idol" that is an idol, that it is wrong – 1 Cor 10:20, 27-29
- b. Grace does not teach a license to sin – Titus 2:9-12
- c. People look at your behavior, which is weak, but reflects your level of charity
- d. "Eat the meat, spit out the bones", but not everyone can identify the bones
- e. Weak conscience = without knowledge – Rom 14:1, 15:1, 1 Cor 9:27
- f. Meat commends us not to God – Rom 14:17, 1 Tim 4:1-4
- g. You're in a better position to proclaim liberty, when you are not a libertine.
- h. Grace is sacrificing your liberty for the sake of others, this is charitable.