

1 Corinthians 21 – 8:7-11

The Weaker Conscience

1. 8:7 – The Weaker Conscience

- a. Gentiles not under law; Jews under law; saints with conscience - Acts 15:21
- b. Conscience ~def. internal knowledge of right and wrong. *See* John 8:9, Rom 2:15
- c. The weak conscience: Those that have a heart, but not knowledge - Rom 10:2
- d. “not in every man” – This is a function of understanding 1 Cor 8:4-6
- e. “as a thing offered unto an idol” – this is idolatry, and a sin against God: Exo 20:3
- f. A defiled conscience = thinking grace is God’s permission to sin - Titus 1:15
- g. Know ye not... the gospel, your service, the Lord? 1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, Eph 5:6

2. 8:8 – The Knowledge of Meat and Drink

- a. What we know gives strength and puffs up- Rom 14:1-3, 14:17, 15:1
- b. Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Catholics, Protestants all have food requirements.
- c. “Tasting not, touching not” are not our ordinances – Col 2:20-23, 1 Tim 4:3-4
- d. Your liberty used to the destruction of ministry towards others is wrong.

3. Liberty as a License to Sin

- a. Liberty is often used to keep the flesh alive: this is wrong – Gal 5:13
- b. Grace (liberty) is not antinomianism – Rom 7:7, 22, but first... Rom 6:2
 - i. It establishes proper judgment – Rom 1:17-18, 2:16, 3:3-8, 3:30
 - ii. It is greater than the law of sin – Rom 5:20-21, 6:14, 8:3-4, 1Cor 15:56
 - iii. It provides the only way to live unto God – Rom 6:3, 11, Gal 2:17-21
 - iv. It provides a greater motivation – Eph 2:10, 2 Cor 5:14-15, 6:1-3, 2 Tim 1:7
 - v. It teaches and enables us to glorify God – Titus 2:10-14
- c. It does not restrict what you could do; but it enables you to do what you should

4. 8:9-11 – Liberty as an Offense

- a. The stumbling block = “grace means it is ok to sin” 2 Cor 5:19...really? 2 Cor 5:10
- b. They hear you don’t tithe nor keep Sabbath and get offended – Rom 14:5-8
- c. “Weak brother perish” - Don’t destroy him, teach him - Romans 14:13-19
- d. Others never wanted to do right, and loose behavior justifies their actions.
- e. Sin is still sin; your meat is changed by mature doctrine – 1 Cor 5:1-2, 6:9