

AS WE BUILD...

8:1-13

WE MUST GUARD
AGAINST PRIDE



¹ Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. 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.

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”— 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

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ In [1 Corinthians 8](#), Paul specifically addresses “food offered to idols.” Why was this even an issue in 1st-century Corinth?
- ▶ In what ways can “knowledge” easily and destructively “puff up” disciples of Christ ([8:1](#))?
- ▶ On the other hand, how does love “build up” ([8:1](#))?
- ▶ How would you summarize the point Paul is making in [8:2-3](#) in your own words?
- ▶ There are some foundational truths taught in [8:4-6](#) that all disciples, whenever we live, need to understand. Why, even today, do we need to build our lives on these truths?

whom we exist.

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.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ “However, not all possess this knowledge” (8:7). Why do Christians need to care about the knowledge that others may or may not have?
- ▶ In your own words, what was the danger Paul is describing in 8:7?
- ▶ When Paul describes someone as “weak” in this context, what does he mean? How can our own consciences be “weak” today?
- ▶ In what ways do 8:11-12 show us just how important these concerns are?
- ▶ How would you summarize Paul's conclusion in 8:13? Why do we need to have the sort of love that builds up (8:1) when it comes to the consciences of our brothers and sisters in Christ?
- ▶ We are “saints under construction,” so what do we need to remember and apply from 8:1-13?