

1Corinthians – Week 31

I. Review: 1Cor 7:36-40 – ENGAGEMENT - 1Cor 8:1-6 – FOOD SACRIFICED TO IDOLS

A. Verse 36 uses a difficult Greek word, *hyperakmos*.

- i. It could refer to a strong man's young passions or a woman whose youth has passed.

B. Marriage is not a sin

- i. Marriage is till death parts you
- ii. Younger widows should marry to give the adversary no occasion for slander
- iii. Someone is only freed to marry another when death has broken the bond
- iv. Christians should marry only in the Lord
- v. Remaining single could be a happier option for you, as Paul suggests

C. We ought not to rely on the knowledge of the world

i. Knowledge puffs up but love builds up

1. Paul is not condemning knowledge, especially knowledge of God
2. He condemns knowledge without love of any kind
3. 1 Corinthians 13:2 ESV *And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

- ii. We ought to procure to know God, the only true God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- iii. Then we can be known by him
- iv. Making yourself known to man by boasting about your wisdom indicates spiritual ignorance

II. Continuation – *Food Sacrificed to Idols*

A. 1 Corinthians 8:7-8 ESV *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.*

i. How did some find themselves eating food sacrificed to idols?

1. Temples in Corinth had dining rooms

- a. If you were invited to a party at the temple of an idol you could be mistaken for a worshiper of the idol
- b. Would that sit well with your conscience or your brother's conscience?
- c. Would you think nothing of it if you wanted to have a dinner party at a heathen temple?

2. Some meat sold in the market place had been sacrificed to an idol

- a. Some didn't ask questions for sake of conscience
- b. What if the seller told you it was sacrificed to an idol? Would you buy it?
- c. What if another brother was with you or found out where you bought it?
- d. What if you were invited to someone's house to eat and they told you the meat had been sacrificed to an idol?

ii. Not everyone has "knowledge" working for them.

1. Their emotional ties may be stronger
2. Their conscience can be defiled
3. Defilement comes when we allow our past experiences to cast doubt on what we know in Christ. Passions and convictions collide - causing doubt and therefore sin.

- a. Romans 14:23 ESV *But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.*

- iii. Food is not going to make us better or worse
 - 1. What our flesh craves does not commend us to God
 - 2. Our love for one another makes us known to God
- B. 1 Corinthians 8:9-11 ESV *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.*
 - i. Don't defend what you can do if it can make someone else stumble
 - ii. Don't use your freedom to hide or excuse fleshly desires
 - iii. Your love for your brothers should be more powerful than your desire to please yourself – that is using your freedom to serve one another in love (Gal 5:13)
 - iv. Your example can make someone spiritually mature or spiritually weaker. Are you leading people closer to Jesus or leading them away from Him?
 - v. Are you using your “knowledge” to destroy or to win people to Christ?
 - vi. Jesus uses every fiber of His being to save, not destroy
- C. 1 Corinthians 8:12-13 ESV *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.*
 - i. We can only love one another when we are loving Jesus
 - ii. If you are loving something else or someone else other than Jesus you become a stumbling block
 - iii. I need to detest that which can cause my brother to stumble
 - 1. Whether it may be an attitude in me
 - 2. Whether it be something I like to do
 - 3. Whether it be someone I like to be
 - 4. I need to be like Jesus, not like the person who Jesus had to die to deliver from sin
 - iv. Love is not self-seeking: 1 Corinthians 13:5 ESV *...Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful...*
 - v. A brother does what leads to peace and mutual edification
 - 1. Romans 14:19-22 ESV *So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. (20) Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. (21) It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. (22) The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.*
 - vi. Examples of modern day activities that can be stumbling blocks
 - 1. Feast of San Gennaro in Little Italy, NY
 - 2. Feast dedicated to Catholic “saints”
 - 3. Activities that promote the “virgin” Mary and her worship
 - 4. Any activity that pays tribute to an idol
 - vii. Lord willing, next class we will have a midterm covering chapters 1 -8