

## ***STUDYING THE BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS*** ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

### **Lesson 12 - Food Sacrificed to Idols - [1 Corinthians 8:1-13](#)**

**Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.**

*Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.*

1CO 8:1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. [2] The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. [3] But the man who loves God is known by God.

1CO 8:4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. [5] For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), [6] yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

1CO 8:7 But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. [8] But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

1CO 8:9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. [10] For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? [11] So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. [12] When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. [13] Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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137. What was troubling the Corinthians? ([8:1](#))
138. What's the problem with knowledge? ([8:1-2](#))
139. What mistaken assumption does a person who thinks he knows something make? ([8:2](#))
140. Why is it more important to be known by God than to know about God? ([8:2-3](#))

141. How did Paul counsel the Corinthians to regard food sacrificed to idols? ([8:4-13](#))
142. What importance does God attach to idols? ([8:5-6](#))
143. Why were the Corinthian Christians continuing to struggle over the matter of idols? ([8:7-8](#))
144. How could the exercise of a believer's freedom hurt a weaker Christian? ([8:9](#))
145. What overriding principle should govern our freedom? ([8:9-13](#))
146. How can a Christian destroy someone? ([8:11](#))
147. How did Paul limit his freedom out of sensitivity to the weaker Christians of his day? ([8:13](#))
148. What should you do if you know your actions would cause another Christian to violate his or her conscience?