

Studies In First Corinthians

(I Corinthians 8:1-13)

1. Can knowledge become dangerous?

Yes, it can puff one up: *“Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth”* (I Corinthians 8:1).

- Idolatry is sinful (**Deuteronomy 5:7-9, Deuteronomy 11:16-17, Acts 15:20, I Corinthians 6:9-10, I Corinthians 10:14, and I John 5:21**).
- Things offered to idols had caused error in the past (**Numbers 25:1-9**).
- Christians are taught to abstain from meats offered to idols (**Acts 15:29 and Revelation 2:14**).
- God’s people are supposed to be a people whom are knowledgeable (**Proverbs 10:14, Proverbs 13:16, Proverbs 19:2, Romans 15:14, Colossians 3:10, and II Peter 3:18**).
- However, knowledge can cause some to become haughty (**Isaiah 47:10**).
- Being puffed up (**I Corinthians 4:6, I Corinthians 5:1-2, and Colossians 2:18**) and proud is wrong (**Proverbs 8:13, Proverbs 16:18, Isaiah 13:11, James 4:6, and I Peter 5:5-6**).

2. Are there people who think they have knowledge, but in reality they know nothing?

Yes: *“And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know”* (I Corinthians 8:2).

- **Romans 10:1-3, Galatians 6:3, and I Timothy 1:5-7.**

3. What do you have to do to be known of God?

Love Him: *“But if any man love God, the same is known of him”* (I Corinthians 8:3).

- **I John 2:3-6 and II Timothy 2:19.**
- Loving God is obeying Him (**John 14:15, John 15:10-14, and I John 5:2-3**).

4. What contributing factor caused some to have defiled consciences when they ate meats that were sacrificed to idols?

They did not have the knowledge that there is but ONE God: *“(4) As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. (5) For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) (6) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. (7) Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled”* (I Corinthians 8:4-7).

- There is one God (**Deuteronomy 6:4**, **Mark 12:32**, **Ephesians 4:6**, and **I Timothy 2:5**).
- By God are all things (**John 1:1-3**, **Ephesians 3:9**, **Colossians 1:16-17**, and **Revelation 4:11**).
- Some people do not realize this (**Acts 17:16-31**).

5. Is there a certain type of meat that will affect your relationship with God if you eat it?

No: *“But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse”* (**I Corinthians 8:8**).

- **Romans 14:20**, **I Timothy 4:1-5**, and **Hebrews 13:9**.

6. When should you refrain from eating certain types of meats?

If eating that meat will cause a weak brother to stumble: *“But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak”* (**I Corinthians 8:9**).

- **Luke 17:1-2**, **Romans 14:21**, and **Galatians 5:13**.

7. Should we be concerned about what others see us doing?

Yes, it may cause someone who is weak to do something wrong because they saw you in an environment that suggests its okay: *“(10) For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; (11) And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died”* (**I Corinthians 8:10-11**)?

- Strong brethren are supposed to be good examples (**I Corinthians 11:1**, **Philippians 3:17**, and **Hebrews 6:12**).
- If you lead someone the wrong direction you are BOTH accountable (**Matthew 15:14**).
- The strong should be helping, not hurting, the weak (**Romans 15:1-3**).

8. Who have you sinned against when you wound the weak conscience of a brother in Christ?

You have sinned against Christ: *“But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ”* (**I Corinthians 8:12**).

- **Matthew 25:41-45**. Remember, Christians are the body of Christ (**Ephesians 5:30**).

9. Was the Apostle Paul willing to give up his liberties because of the conscience of another?

Yes: *“Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend”* (**I Corinthians 8:13**).

- **I Corinthians 10:23-33**.