

8¹ Now concerning things offered to idols:

We know that we all have knowledge.

Knowledge ^[a]puffs up, but love ^[b]edifies.

² And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.

³ But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

⁴ Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

⁷ However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

⁹ But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a ^[c]stumbling block to those who are weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? ¹¹ And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹² But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Corinthians 8:1 makes arrogant
- b. 1 Corinthians 8:1 builds up
- c. 1 Corinthians 8:9 cause of offense

Questions for 1st Corinthians – Chapter 8

1. What is said in the first verse of this chapter to let the reader know that a new section of the book has begun? _____
2. What is meant by the statement “we know that we all have knowledge”? _____

3. Knowledge _____, but _____ due.
4. Why must the Christian know that an idol is not God? _____

5. Is the offering to an idol change because it is offered to an idol? _____
6. Do all share the knowledge that an idol is nothing and the nature of a thing offered to an idol does not necessarily pollute it? _____
7. How could the conscience of the weak be “defiled” by eating something offered to an idol? _____
8. How may the liberty of a knowledgeable Christian be restrained by the weakness of a fellow-saint? _____

9. What attitude ought the stronger brother have towards his own liberty to eat the meat sacrificed to an idol have in the presence of the weaker brother? _____

10. What attitude should that stronger brother have towards the weaker brother in Christ? _____