



Liberty-Limiting Love
I Corinthians 8:1-13 (ESV)

No STUMBLINGBLOCKS!

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. ⁴Therefore, 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.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— ⁶yet 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 whom we exist. ⁷However, 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. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For 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? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Point: “All of us possess knowledge” 8:1a

Counterpoint: Knowledge is good, but is trumped by love 8:1b-3

Point: “Idols are nothing. Only God is God” 8:4

Counterpoint: Not everyone is where you are 8:5-7

Point: “The food we eat doesn’t affect our closeness to God” 8:8

Counterpoint: What you do can adversely affect others, so love limits personal liberties for the sake of the weaker brother 8:9-12

*The ‘No Stumblingblock’ Principle: When my choice to exercise my freedom influences a weaker brother/sister to do something that violates their conscience, I’m sinning against them and Christ. I’m failing to live out the implications of the Gospel I say I believe.

The Pertinent Question...

“Are there any Christians in my sphere of influence who might be tripped up spiritually if they saw/knew that I was doing this? Could my participating in this activity become a stumblingblock to a weaker brother/sister, resulting in them violating their tender conscience and being drawn away from closeness to Jesus?”

Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Closed Circuit for New Life Church:

1. Develop a ‘Gospel instinct’—the ability to see the Gospel in scripture and its connection to our mindset and lifestyle.
2. Our ‘gray area’ issues...
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

“My response to His Word ...”

Bible Reading Plan

<input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: Rev. 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Mon.: Rev. 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Tues.: Rev. 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed.: Rev. 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs.: Rev. 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri.: Rev. 11
<input type="checkbox"/> Sat.: Rev. 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: Rev. 13	

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