

Postcards from Corinth - Part 5
A Question No One Is Asking Today.
1 Cor. 8:1-13
May 25, 2025

I. Understanding the QUESTION no one is asking TODAY. (v.1,4)

- A. A common PRACTICE in CORINTH and BEYOND. (v.1,4,10)**
- B. Isn't this IRRELEVANT for TODAY? (Rom. 15:4)**

Corinth seems like a far away time and place, especially when you read about eating meat that is sacrificed to idols. How many of us have been in a theological dilemma about this issue? Probably none of us. So what's the point in spending time in a passage like this on a Sunday morning?

1. Kid's Question: What is one thing about church that seems weird to you?

II. There are THINGS that we KNOW. (v.1-6)

- A. We have KNOWLEDGE, but it is LIMITED. (v.2)**
- B. There is ONLY one GOD. (v.4-6)**
- C. Eating this MEAT isn't SINFUL. (v.8)**
- D. Not EVERYONE sees it this WAY. (v.7)**

Knowledge is very important to the Corinthians. It's often said that "Knowledge is power" and we've repeatedly come to see that power and status was very important in Corinthian culture. Paul makes some things clear that people should know, but the reality is we often come to a realization of the truth slowly and on our own.

2. How do we balance our confidence in what we know with humility in what we don't? Where have you seen this done well (or poorly) in the church in the past?
3. What might be an issue that causes a similar challenge to the church of today? How have you seen people respond to that issue today?

III. ADDRESSING the deeper ISSUE. (v.9-13)

- A. FREEDOM is not the ULTIMATE goal. (v.9)**
- B. The DANGER of knowledge without LOVE. (v.1, 10-12)**
- C. LOVE shapes FREEDOM a new way. (v.13; 1 Pet. 2:16; Rom. 6:18)**

As Jake said last week, let's not get distracted by presenting issue (the meat offered to Idols) and miss the larger wisdom of Paul's direction to the church in this passage. There are bigger forces at play that are still lingering around the church foyer today. What are the deeper issues that this passage confronts in each of us?

4. What does freedom look like to the culture around us? What does it look like to a follower of Jesus?
5. When have you seen issues that bring about conflict in regards to “knowledge” in the church? What caused that?

IV. FREEDOM, KNOWLEDGE and LOVE today.

- A. The GREATEST of these is LOVE. (v.1; I Cor. 13)**
- B. Love LEADS to being KNOWN by God. (v.3; Jn 14:21-23)**
- C. Being KNOWN leads to true KNOWLEDGE. (v.9-12; Ps. 91:14-18)**
- D. True KNOWLEDGE leads to true FREEDOM. (v.9-13; Jn 10:18; Gal. 4:9; Jn 8:32)**

The focus of this section has to do with the interplay between these three things, freedom, knowledge, and love. If we don't get how the gospel reorders the importance of these and the relationship that they have with each other we will end up living lives that lead us and others from freedom into captivity and brokenness.

6. How would you describe the relationship between love, knowledge, and freedom? When have you messed that up? What happened?
7. When have you seen knowledge puff up? How can you guard against that in your own life?
8. “The key to everything is growing in love for God and others.” Do you agree? If so, how do we grow in that love? Where does knowledge factor into that?