

Bible Reading

1 Corinthians 8: To Eat or Not to Eat

Pastor Mike

1. What concern is raised in this chapter? (vv. 1, 4) What were the Corinthians elevating above love for their brethren? (v. 1)
2. How much did the Corinthians really know? What knowledge does Paul suggest is more important than any other pursuit? (vv. 2-3) On what occasions may abstinence be appropriate? What must a couple do to avoid defrauding each other in this area?
3. What does Paul say that we know concerning idols (v. 4)? How does what we know about God the Father and His Son affect our understanding of idols? (vv. 5-6)
4. What do we learn about the role and responsibilities of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ? (v. 6)
5. In this context, what characterizes a weak believer? If food doesn't make us any better or worse, why would an eater of meat be defiled (vv. 7-8)? When situations today might put a believer in situation where he would violate his conscience?
6. What responsibility does the stronger (more knowledgeable) believer have in this context? (vv. 9-10) What does this suggest about our own liberty in cultural matters today? (c.f. Rom. 14:13) What does perish mean in verse 11?
7. How do Christians wound a weak conscience? How does the Bible label this behavior? (vv. 12-13) Name some examples of how believers violate weaker believers today.
8. If I learn that something I am doing causes spiritual harm to other believers, what is my responsibility as a Christian? What position am I supposed to take to my fellow believers in the body of Christ? (v. 13) What activity in your life presently could potentially cause spiritual harm to another Christian (even in your own home)?