

Chapter Eight

In Chapter Eight Paul moves on to a second topic that was brought up by the Corinthians in a prior correspondence (1st Cor. 8:1 cf. 7:1). This topic was a question regarding meat sacrificed to idols. Paul answers the question through the instruments of knowledge and love (1st Cor. 8:1-3). In terms of knowledge, since no other gods exist, meat sacrificed to idols is not a concern to those who exist from & are reconciled to God the Father through the mediatorial work of Jesus Christ (1st Cor. 8:4-6). In terms of love, some believers don't have such a perspective, and their weak conscience can be ruined (1st Cor. 8:7-12). The Law of Love motivates a believer to waive any liberty he has for the sake of not being a stumbling block (1st Cor. 8:13).

Knowledge and Love

1. Concerning “things sacrificed to idols” (1st Cor. 8:1).
 - a. ^{#1494}: from ^{#1497} (*image, likeness*) & ^{#2380} (*to sacrifice, slay, kill*)
(Acts 15:29; 21:25; 1st Cor. 8:1,4,7,10; 10:19; Rev. 2:14,20).
 - b. The more common term is _____, which is also indexed by Strongs as ^{#1494} (1st Cor. 10:28).
 - c. Only the monotheistic perspective of worshiping YHWH makes sacrifices to “other” gods idolatrous (Rev. 2:14 cf. Num. 25:2).
2. We are knowing (_____ μ _____) that we all have factual knowledge (_____ μ _____).
 - a. The formula _____ μ _____ is freq. used to introduce a well-known fact that is generally accepted (Mt. 22:16; Lk. 20:21; Jn. 3:2; 9:31; Rom. 2:2; 3:19; 7:14; 8:22,28; 2nd Cor. 5:1; 1st Tim. 1:8; 1st Jn. 3:2; 5:18ff.) (BDAG 3rd Ed.)
 - b. Knowledge makes arrogant (_____). Gnosis puffs up.
 - 1) Pres.act.ind. ^{#5448}: *to inflate, blow up, puff up* (1st Cor. 4:6,18,19; 5:2; 8:1; 13:4; Col. 2:18).
 - 2) Noun ^{#5450}: *inflated, bloated, swell-headedness* (2nd Cor. 12:20).
 - c. Love edifies (_____ μ _____). Agape builds up.
 - 1) Pres.act.ind. μ ^{#3618}: *to build* (Used 40x: Matt. 7:24,26; 16:18; 21:33,42; 23:19; 26:61; 27:40; Mk. 12:1,10; 14:58; 15:29; Lk. 4:29; 6:48_{x2},49; 7:5; 11:47,48; 12:18; 14:28,30; 17:28; 20:17; Jn. 2:20; Acts 7:47,49; 9:31; 20:32; Rom. 15:20; 1st Cor. 8:1,10; 10:23; 14:4_{x2},17; Gal. 2:18; 1st Thess. 5:11; 1st Pet. 2:5,7).
 - 2) Noun μ ^{#3619}: *edifying, edification* (Used 18x: Matt. 24:1; Mk. 13:1,2; Rom. 14:19; 15:2; 1st Cor. 3:9; 14:3,5,12,26; 2nd Cor. 5:1; 10:8; 12:19; 13:10; Eph. 2:21; 4:12,16,29).
3. The only thing we need to know is that we don't yet know *in the way that we ought to know* (_____) (1st Cor. 8:2).
 - a. Assuming that anyone thinks that he has come to know anything, not yet has he come to know in a manner in which it is a necessity in the nature of the case to know (Wuest).
 - b. If anyone thinks he knows anything, he does not yet know it as he ought to know it (HCSB).
 - c. Two quotes from William Somerset Maugham (English playwright & novelist):
 - 1) The little I know, I owe to my ignorance.
 - 2) The only thing I know for sure is that I don't know anything for sure.
 - d. Two quotes from E.C. McKenzie (American Church of Christ Minister):
 - 1) The person who knows everything has a lot to learn.
 - 2) It isn't the things we know that gets us into trouble. It's the things we know for sure that do.
4. The key is not “what we know” but “Who we love” (1st Cor. 8:3).
 - a. If anyone loves God (_____).
 - b. He is known by Him (_____). Perf.pass.ind. ^{#1097}.

Knowledge

In terms of knowledge, since no other gods exist, meat sacrificed to idols is not a concern to those who exist from, for, and through Jesus Christ (1st Cor. 8:4-6).

1. The big picture is “things sacrificed to idols.”

This picture is “eating things sacrificed to idols.” _____

(1st Cor. 8:4 cf. v.1).

2. A well-known fact is that false gods are simply imposters (1st Cor. 8:4-5).

3. There is no such thing as an idol in the world (μ μ), and there is no God but one (μ) (1st Cor. 8:4).

a. ^{#1497}: idol. There is no idol/image in the world. Just as with _____ above, this view is only possible from a monotheistic perspective. [Kittel](#) has a great article on this.

b. ^{#2316}: God. There is no god except for One.

c. The non-existent idols are in the world (μ).

4. Even if there are (_____) (1st Cor. 8:5). “If indeed,” “For although,” “For even if” (Rom. 3:30; 8:9,17).

a. So called gods (μ).

1) Non-Christian deities are referred to as _____ only in polemical contexts (Acts 7:40,43; 19:37; 2nd Thess. 2:4), with the exception of the reference to the “unknown God” (Acts 17:23). Terms such as μ (1st Cor 8:5) and μ (Gal 4:8) are to be understood against the background of Hellenistic philosophy of religion.

2) These “gods” are actually “no gods” (2nd Chr. 13:8&9).

3) Antichrist will even exalt himself above these “so called gods” (2nd Thess. 2:4).

4) Herm.Wr. 2,14 the μ in contrast to μ .

b. Either/or in the heavens, on the earth (_____). The μ are monopresent—confined to either heaven or earth (Job 1:6-7), and required to travel between the two (Gen. 28:12). [Note: the only apparent bipresent angels are the guardian angels (Mt. 18:10)].

5. As indeed there are (_____) (Deut. 10:17).

a. Many gods (_____). Jn. 10:34-36; Ps. 82:1,6; also 8:5; 86:8; 97:7,9; 138:1; Ex. 18:11; 22:19; Jer. 10:1-16

b. Many lords (_____). The _____ in Acts 10:4 is an _____ angel in v.3. The term _____ in Jude 8; 2nd Pet. 2:10; Eph. 1:21; Col. 1:16 refers to angelic beings. The “elder” of Rev. 7:13 is addressed as Lord in v.14, but as a general address this is not unusual (cf. Acts 16:30).

c. Idolatry is demon-worship (Deut. 32:17; 1st Cor. 10:20).

6. Yet for us (μ) (1st Cor. 8:6).

a. One God (_____). The Father (_____).

1) From Whom are all things (_____). ^{#1537}: *out of, from, away from*. 921 occurrences. Source, origin, name. 1st Cor. 11:12; 2nd Cor. 5:18; Eph. 3:15. John 10:29. Acts 17:28

2) and we for Him (μ). ^{#1519}: *into, in, toward, to*. Destiny, goal, name. “For” may be consistent with 1st Cor. 6:13, but the syntax is entirely different between the two passages. Ex & eis appear together in such contrasting passages as Mt. 15:11; 27:53; Mk. 7:15,31; 9:25; Lk. 2:4; 10:7; 17:24; Jn. 3:13; 4:47,54; 5:24; 11:55; Acts 7:3,4; 18:1; 28:17; Rom. 1:17; 11:24,36; 1st Cor. 8:6; 2nd Cor. 2:16_{x2}; Gal. 6:8; Col. 1:13; 1st Pet. 2:9; 1st Jn. 3:14; Rev. 8:5; 9:1,3; 11:12; 13:13; 16:1; 17:8.

b. One Lord (_____). Jesus Christ (_____).

1) Through Whom are all things (_____). Agent of creation, agent of salvation.

2) and we through Him (μ). Agent of reconciliation, agent of glorification.

From, through, and to Him are all things (Rom. 11:36). By, through, and for Him (Col. 1:16). “Into” Himself (Col. 1:20).

7. This is what we know (_____) (1st Cor. 8:4) but not everyone has this knowledge (_____) (1st Cor. 8:7).

Love

1. A believer does not achieve victory in their testing by their own doctrinal understanding and maturity alone. Sometimes the doctrinal understanding of other believers is a more vital consideration (1st Cor. 8:7).
 - a. We all have knowledge (v.1), but not all have “this” knowledge (v.7). Or in other words, “this knowledge is not in all.”
 - 1) We all have knowledge. μ .
 - 2) (The) This knowledge is not in all. .
 - b. Some believers were “accustomed” to their culture’s idolatry. ^{#4914}: *custom, practice* (Jn. 18:39; 1st Cor. 8:7; 11:16). ^{#4862} + ^{#2239}: *custom, usage, morals, character* (1st Cor. 15:33). cf. ^{#2550}: “malice” (Rom. 1:29).
 - c. The things believers are accustomed to may leave the consciences of those believers weak. ^{#4893}: *conscience* (Rom. 2:15; 1st Cor. 8:7,10,12; 10:25,27,28,29_{x2}; 1st Tim. 4:2; Tit. 1:15; Heb. 9:14; 10:22).
2. Matters of temporal life liberty are irrelevant for progress in spiritual life (1st Cor. 8:8).
 - a. Matters of temporal life liberty are not matters presented to God at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 - b. Neither worse. ^{#5302}: *to miss out, fail to reach, be in need* (Matt. 19:20; Lk. 15:14; Jn. 2:3; Rom. 3:23; 1st Cor. 1:7; 8:8; 12:24; 2nd Cor. 11:5,9; 12:11).
 - c. Nor better. ^{#4052}: *to be in abundance, abound, be better* (Matt. 5:20; Lk. 15:17; 1st Cor. 8:8; 14:12; 15:58; 2nd Cor. 1:5; 3:9; 4:15; 8:2,7; 9:8,12; 1st Thess. 4:1,10).
3. Matters of temporal life liberty may become a stumbling block to other believers, in which case these matters become critically relevant to spiritual life (1st Cor. 8:9-12).
 - a. Take care. v.2p.pl.pres.act.imper. ^{#991}: *to see*.
 - b. Somehow. ^{#4452} conj. in the form μ : *somehow*. A marker of a negative perspective expressing misgiving; in object clauses after verbs of apprehension (Acts 27:29; 2nd Cor. 11:3; 12:20_{x2}; Gal. 4:11).
 - c. Stumbling block. $\mu\mu$ ^{#4348}: *act of stumbling; obstacle* (Rom. 9:32).
 - 1) Compare with ^{#4625}: *stumbling block* (Rom. 14:13).
 - 2) The stone of stumbling ($\mu\mu$) and rock of offense () is significant to the Christology of Peter () (1st Pet. 2:8; cf. Matt. 16:18,23).
 - 3) Great article in [BibSac](#) on $\mu\mu$ & .
 - d. Weak conscience wrongly edified (1st Cor. 8:10). μ ^{#3618}.
 - e. A fellow believer may become ruined (1st Cor. 8:11). μ ^{#622}: *to perish, ruin, destroy* (Jn. 3:16).
4. The Law of Love is a supreme veto over the Law of Liberty (1st Cor. 8:13). Can we lay aside our privileges for the sake of other believers? (Phil. 2:5).