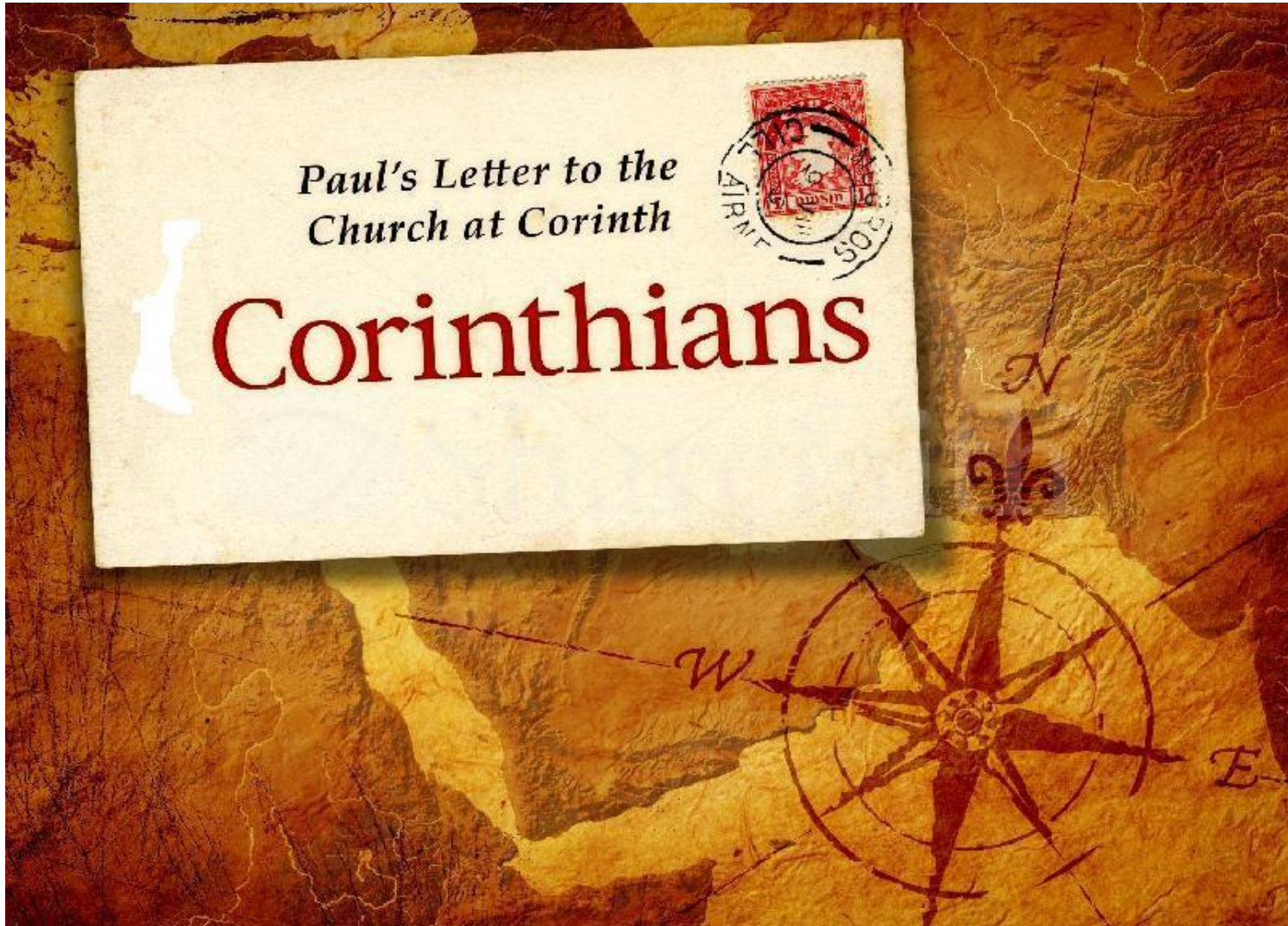


# 1 Cor. 8:1-4 Shall We Eat Idol Meat?



# Today's Outline\*



- A. The Subject (Eating Idol Meat) Introduced 8:1a
- B. The Presence of Knowledge 8:1b-3
  - 1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Problem: Knowledge Alone Is not Always Sufficient
  - 2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Problem: Knowledge Alone Begets Pride
- C. The True Knowledge from God 8:4-6
  - 1. The Theme of These Verses: the Biblical Doctrine of Monotheism
    - a. First, the Bible States There Is Only One True God
    - b. Second, the Bible States All Others Claiming Deity Are False
  - 2. The Conclusion of These Verses: God Is the Source, the Object, and the Means of Our Lives

\* McCalley

# Questions for Paul in 1 Corinthians



- The remainder of the body of this epistle deals with questions the Corinthians had put to Paul in a letter.\*
- Paul introduced each of these with the phrase:  
now concerning - *de peri*
- 1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.
- **1 Cor 8:1** Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.
- 1 Cor 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. \* Constable



1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;

3 but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.

.



<sup>1</sup> Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

- verse 1a can be diagrammed this way  
**verb:** we know  
**direct object:** that we all have knowledge  
**modifier:** concerning things sacrificed to idols

**we know** - *oida* - to have seen or perceived; hence,  
to know, to have knowledge of – perfect tense

- the Corinthian believers knew about “idols sacrificed” in the past and continue to know about it up until the present

**that we all have knowledge**

- from the context it is about the things sacrificed to idols



<sup>1</sup> Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

## concerning things sacrificed to idols

The following is understood about this issue - McCalley

- There was no possible way to live in Corinth and not come in contact with pagan idolatry.
- The meat offered on idol altars was portioned out
  - a portion of it was burned up in honor of the idol
  - another portion was given to the priest
  - the remaining portion found in the marketplace\* created difficulties among Christians \*1 Cor. 10:25

In the remainder of Chp 8 Paul will give us God's view on this issue.

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.



**(the) knowledge** - *gnosis* - subjectively spoken of what one knows; knowledge

**What is “the knowledge” referring to?**

**makes arrogant** - *physio* - to puff up, blow up, inflate with a sense of pride; 1 Cor 4:18

- you can become prideful with this knowledge

**but** – *de* - in contrast [to being arrogant]

**(the) love** – *agape* – Christ’s love – 1 Cor 13:1-8

**edifies** - *oikodomeō* - to build up in the faith, to grow

- love will teach us how to handle Christian liberty Merryman

1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.



**observation about verse 8:1b** (from C. Hodge via Merryman)

- love\* is intelligent and knowledge is emotional
- anything that puffs you up is an emotional response
- love\* keeps on building up
- knowledge that puffs up is not true knowledge
- love\* is to be the catalyst in the proper application of knowledge

\* Christ's love

McCalley summary:

true knowledge = scriptural facts + Christ's love + actions

**What are today's issues that are similar?**



2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;



If anyone supposes that he knows anything

If – assumed to be true

anyone – speaking of a believer

supposes - *dokeō* - to think, imagine, consider – the opinion formed by man concerning a matter

that he knows anything (perfect tense – to know completely)

If anyone imagines he has fully acquired true knowledge\*

- The problems that Paul deals with in this chapter are the type that knowledge [alone] is not sufficient to solve.      McCalley

\* Merryman

2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;



he has not yet known as he ought to know

- root word for known and know is *ginosko* – aorist tense

as – can mean “to the extent” or “in the way”      McCalley

a. he has not yet known to the extent as he ought to know

- man does not know everything
- man’s knowledge always falls short
- only God has all knowledge – omniscient

b. he has not yet known in the way he ought to know

- man cannot fully know the motive of another person

2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;



## What should a believer understand about knowledge?

- 1 Cor 13:2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

- True gnosis ["knowledge"] consists not in the accumulation of so much data, nor even in the correctness of one's theology, but in the fact that one has learned to live in love toward all. Constable



<sup>3</sup> but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

**but - *de*** - in contrast to the previous verses

**if anyone loves God**

**if** – assumed to be true

**anyone** – speaking of a believer

**loves** – *agape* - God is the source of this kind of love  
(present tense – continuous action)

- This love is only expressed as Christ lives His life through us.
- 1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.
- 1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



<sup>3</sup> but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

**he** – speaking of a believer

**is known** - *ginosko* - In the NT *ginōskō* frequently indicates:

1. A relation between the person "knowing" and the object known;
2. in this respect, what is "known" is of value or importance to the one who knows,
3. and hence the establishment of the relationship. Vine

perfect tense: he [the believer] is known in the past by Him and continues to be known up into the present by Him

**by Him** – The expression *known by Him* refers to special intimacy and favor.

McCalley

- 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.



**therefore** – Paul will now state a conclusion about what we know.

- verse 4 can be diagrammed this way
- **main verb** – we know
- **modifier** - concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols
- **compound direct object:**
  - that there is no such thing as an idol in the world
  - that there is no God but one

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.



**we know** - *oida* - in the sense of to perceive, be aware of, understand

- Paul resumed his discussion of knowledge after digressing briefly in verses 2 and 3 to comment on the superiority of love over knowledge. Constable

**concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols**

- This eating could have taken place in the idol temples or in peoples homes.
- Paul will now give God's view of idols.

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.



that there is no such thing as an idol in the world

that an idol is a nonentity in the world

Wuest

**nonentity** - *ouden* - is nothing, no one

- an idol has no real existence footnote NASB
- 1 Cor 10:19 What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?
- Gal 4:8b --- when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.
- He (Paul) means they have no true existence; they are pieces of wood or stone and nothing more. McCalley



4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.



### that there is no God but one

- Deut 4:35 To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him.
- Deut 4:39b --- that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.
- Deut 6:4 Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!
- The Scriptures further teach that the one true God exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We express this truth by the word *Trinity*. McCalley

## God the Trinity



- Holy
  - Righteous
  - Just
- Infinite
  - Omniscient
  - Omnipresent
  - Omnipotent
- Self Existent
- Love
  - Grace
  - Mercy
- Immutable
  - Faithful
  - Truth
- Spirit
- Sovereign

### The Trinity and the Attributes of God

Is the essential qualities of  
the Triune God - Who He is !

#### • Example: God is Truth

- Father - John 7:28 “He who sent me is true”
- Son - Rev. 3:7 “He who is holy, who is true”
- Spirit - 1 John 5:7 “ it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth”

# Final Thoughts



To love is to know and to be known. Compare 1 John 4:7,8: “Every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God; he that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love.” This is the precise sentiment of the text. Love is essential to knowledge. He that loves God, knows God. The apostle in this connection interchanges love of the brethren and the love of God, because the love of the brethren is only one of the forms in which the love of God manifests itself. When he said, “Love edifieth,” he meant love to the brethren, and without that love, he says, there can be no true knowledge. C. Hodge