

Love • Liberty

MESSAGE: TIM JOHNSTON

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Dangerous Knowledge and Its Antidote 1 Cor. 8:1-3

Love & Liberty: Setting the Stage

1. Founding of the Church in Corinth (Acts 18:1-17)
2. The Letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians)
3. Our Series: Love & Liberty (1 Corinthians 8-10)

Passage Theme:

Without love, knowledge of God's Word undermines the wellbeing of the Christian community (1-3).

1 Cor. 8:1 *Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.*

1. **The Particular Issue:** The believer's freedom to participate in an unbelieving culture's practices (1a, 4-13; 10:14-33).

1 Cor. 8:1 *Now concerning food offered to idols...*

2. **The Insight Needed:** Love, not mere theological knowledge, serves as the foundation for determining matters of freedom (1b-3).

- a. Some Corinthians intended to resolve the issue based on a cold, intellectual grasp of God's Word (1b).

1 Cor. 8:1b *we know that "all of us possess knowledge."*

- b. Paul warns them of the dangers of mere intellectual assessment, redirecting them to a loving focus (1c).

1 Cor. 8:1c *This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.*

- c. Prideful “knowers” miss the point of growing in an understanding of The Faith—it’s about loving God (2-3).

1 Cor. 8:2 *If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.*

1 John 4:19 *We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

Reflection Questions

1. What “freedoms” are you convinced you have that may actually distress other believers if exercised carelessly? (Examples: alcohol consumption, entertainment choices, attire)
2. How do you view other believers who do not have the same “freedoms” as you? Defensively or lovingly?

SONGS

“Your Grace Is Enough” - Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher

“The Lion And The Lamb” - Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, and Leeland Mooring

“Build My Life” - Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kable, Pat Barrett, and Matt Redman

“Jesus Paid It All” - Elvina M. Hall and John Grape

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$35,936.90
WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,199,437.00
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,269,792.00