1 Corinthians

CHAPTERS 8 - 11

Knowledge vs. Love **1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

1. They said, "Because we have knowledge, we are free to do whatever we want."
   - "gods" don't exist
   - Food isn't relevant

2. Paul said, "Because we have love, we will limit our freedom for our Brothers."

   Knowledge (alone) leads to pride and self indulgence
   Love (with knowledge) leads to humility and unity

   Our Christian life is all about God not about personal freedom.

   We must curb our behavior to strengthen not weaken our Brothers and Sisters.

How do we decide?

1. What does the Bible say? (Knowledge)

2. What does my conscience say? (Personal)

3. What does my believing friend need? (Love)

**Fourteenth* in the 1st Corinthians series, by Pastor Tim Hawks
CDs of this message (07/06/08) may be purchased at the Media Center or listened to online at www.hcbc.com.

REALife Application

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or REALife Group.

1. Do you think our church tends to focus on getting things "right-doing the right things" or loving people? Give examples to support your answer.

2. Scripture makes it clear that there is only one God. See 1Cor 8:6, Gal 3:20, Rom 3:29-30, 1Tim 2:5. What does this tell us about the worship of other "gods"?

3. Have you ever faced a situation where you chose to avoid something simply because your conscience said "no"?

4. Have you ever been tempted to sin because you were encouraged by another Christian? Give an example of a time you have limited your Christian freedom to support another believer.

Memory Verse

Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.
1 Cor 8:9