

What Would You Give Up for Christ? (1 Corinthians 8:1-13)

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Introduction: Have you ever pictured yourself giving up something for Christ?

- A. In all likelihood we would think of some great one time sacrifice.
 - 1. But what if the sacrifice was "small" that could be just an inconvenience.
 - 2. What if this "inconvenience" was the result of a new Christian, who is weak?
 - 3. Furthermore what if only you and the weak brother knew?
- B. Review of 1 Corinthians
 - 1. Our study of the book is divided into two sections.
 - a. **1 Cor 1:11 to 6:20** - "the things reported by Chloe's household".
 - b. **1 Cor 7:1** - "the things of which you wrote to me.."
 - 2. This chapter is a result of one of the questions in their letter. Note: "Now concerning..."

I. The Problem of Idolatry and Socially Accepted Practices.

- A. Corinth was a center for idol worship.
- B. What was the appeal of idols?
 - 1. "Pagan sacrifices could be thought of as typically consisting of three portions.
 - a. One small part would be used in the sacrificial ritual.
 - b. A larger portion would be for the use of the priests or other temple personnel.
 - c. The largest part would be retained by the worshiper to be used in one of two ways.

"The one who offered the sacrifice sometimes used the remaining portion as the main course in a meal which might be served at or near the pagan temple." - Holman's

- 2. The social gatherings and the selling of meat in the marketplace all had close connection with idolatry.
- 3. This is why the letter from Jerusalem stated: (**Acts 15:29**)
- C. What are some common social practices of today that Christian's must refuse?

II. The Danger of Pride. (1 Corinthians 8:1-6)

- A. Pride is defined by Paul by a word picture "puffed-up"
 - 1. phusioo 2) to inflate, blow up, to cause to swell up 2a) to puff up, make proud 2b) to be puffed up, to bear one's self loftily, be proud
 - 2. Other passages: (**1 Cor 4:18-19; 5:2**)
 - 3. Pride is also well described in verse 2!
- B. Pride is most damaging in what it sees (our accomplishments both real and imagined) and even more so in what it does not see (God and his work)!
 - 1. Which is more important: To know about God or to have God know you! Ex: "To know the President or to have the president know you."
 - 2. Pride takes a "short cut" and leaves God out!
 - 3. What "commends" us before God? (**1 Cor. 8:8; 2 Cor. 10:17-18**)
- C. Does the thought of God knowing you build you up, or rather what men think?
- D. What does pride do with truth? What should we do with it?

1. Is there only one God? (vv4-6)
2. What should we do with the truth? (**1 Tim 6:3-5; 1 Cor 13:1-4**)
3. We must stop trying to prove ourselves in our marriage, our personal work, in all that we say and begin to see God. (**Phil 2:1-4**)

III. How to Defile a Conscience (1 Corinthians 8:7-13)

A. What is a conscience?

1. suneidesis- 1) the consciousness of anything 2) the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending one, condemning the other 2a) the conscience 2) The conscience is a judge, not a guide. It can be trained wrong. (**Acts 23:1**)

B. What is a weak conscience? (**Romans 14:14-16, 23**)

1. Please notice that a weak brother is not in violation of God's law. He is more restrictive on himself than God. (**1 Corinthians 6:12**)
2. It would be wrong to conclude that authority is not necessary from these verses!

C. What does God want from me? (V8)

1. If we see clearly, it is not meat! What if the "strong" win the argument. Is that all he should do?
2. What are we known for, our knowledge or our love? (**John 13:34-35**) (We must have both, but we dare not have only one.)

D. How can I "offend" another?

1. skandalizo
 - a. to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall, metaph. to offend
2. How does God view the weak brother? (**v11-12**)
 - a. Pride tell me he is a nuisance.
 - b. God says: "..for whom Christ died? 12...you sin against Christ."
 - c. Watch your attitude! (**Romans 14:3**)
 - d. What will I give up for God?
3. This does not give me a club upon which to force my will and myself upon others! Pride tells me to do that.

E. Why does the weak brother perish? (v. 11)

1. Because of sin. (**Romans 6:23**)
2. Because he did not keep his conscience pure. (**Acts 24:16, 23:1**)
3. Areas in which we must guard our conscience.
 - a. Honesty- Mate, work, friends.
 - b. Smoking.
 - c. Temper.
 - d. Social drinking.
 - e. How do I regard my brethren.

Conclusion: What has Christ done for me? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

- A. How do I show my love for Christ? (**Matthew 25:40**)
- B. Do I see as God sees? What will you give up for Christ?