

Christian Liberty

In this challenging chapter of 1st Corinthians, Paul addresses one of the most controversial issues that faced the first century church and still causes great debate in the postmodern church. **Christian liberty** addresses what type of activities are acceptable or unacceptable for Christians. The church at Corinth struggled with what type of meats were permitted, but in 2015 we have a much larger landscape to navigate in terms of what's "right or wrong" for the Christian to do.

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Points to consider regarding Christian liberties:

- Paul said all things are legal, but not all things are expedient.
- Should a Christian attend concerts where secular artist perform? (Is jazz, R&B, the blues, classical, and hip-hop music acceptable?)
- To what extent should a Christian get involved in politics? (Should Christians politically advocate for or against same-sex unions, abortions, or legalizing medical marijuana)?
- Should a Christian engage in moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages?

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V1. Paul addresses the question of what are acceptable foods for Christian to eat. Do we believe that some foods should not be consumed by believers?

- What are the negatives and positives of knowledge?
- Why does Paul compare knowledge to love?
- Why does Paul consider love supreme to knowledge?

V3. When a person loves God what is their responsibility to others?

Bible Study

Lesson #8

1st Corinthians Chapter 8

Verses 4-9

This section addresses believers who did not have a problem with eating meats sacrificed to idols.

- V4. Knowledge lets us know that there is only one God, and the idol has no value.
- V6. We must be careful about our activities, because we can offend another believer by what we do.
- If our consuming certain foods offends our brothers/sisters in the Lord, then we must make some adjustments.
 - Just because your conscience is clear about a particular issue does not mean that other believers are accepting of the activity.
- V8. Jesus said it is not what a person eats that condemns them but what comes out of them is the problem. Can you explain?
- V9. There is a point where your liberty as a Christian may become a stumbling block for another believer. Explain. What responsibility do you have for other Christians?

Verses 10-13

This section addresses the responsibilities we have in Christian liberty.

- V10. Christian freedom is tied to Christian responsibility. Explain.
- V11. How can a believer abuse their liberty in Christ?
- V12. What happens when we offend younger Christians by our activities even though we don't consider it sinful?
- V13. What are you willing to give up so the cause of Christ is advanced?