**THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS"**

**CHAPTER 8**

**Chapter 8 gives us certain things we need to focus in on…**

1) To understand the relationship between knowledge and love

2) That the possibility exists that **we might misuse the liberty we have in Christ**

3) To realize the responsibility we have to our brethren who may be

 **weak or lacking in knowledge**

**As mature Christian Brothers and Sisters we must never forget our responsibility to God by not becoming a stumbling block to the weaker brother or sister in all walks of our Christianity!**

**SUMMARY**

But over in the tenth chapter Paul will conclude with specific warnings concerning this issue… We’ll get there when we cross that bridge.

But here he begins by arguing on the basis of the supremacy of love over knowledge

(**1-3**). Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.2And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.3But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

While concurring that some might have correct knowledge about God and idols, he points out that all might not, and it would be very easy by an **abuse of "liberty"** to cause those with weak consciences to stumble

**(4-10). 4As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.5For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)6But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.7Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.8But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.9But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.10For if any man see thee which hast knowledge (should know better) sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;**

Such would be a serious offense, even against Christ, prompting Paul to say how far he would go to avoid causing a brother to stumble

Here is how Paul addressed this issue…..calling it a very serious offence….

**(11-13). 11And through thy knowledge (you should know better) shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?12But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.13Wherefore, if meat, (certain foods) make my brother to be offended, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to be offended.**

Beloved in Paul’s day during the Greco-roman days it was a common practice to have slaughter houses of animals everywhere. In many cases they were right next to a temple. Parts of these slain animals would be consumed by the altar fire but the left over might either be given to priests or other worshipers or were sold in the market places. Some people would sometime go out and purchase these left overs and bring them home to have a banquet and have a feast in the name of so and so.! So A very Valid Question was raised indeed!!!

However, The Gnostic libertines felt that it was of no consequence if one ate or not for one was not better or worse!

But **PAUL CAUTIONS EVERY ONE by saying** .. beware that you do not cause a stumbling block to a weaker brother in Christ.

**\*\*Not Just in food eating but in everything that we do!!!\*\*\*\***

**It could be our dress wear.**

**It could be our associations**

**It could be our attitudes**

**It could be our self control**

**It could be our use of the tongue.**

**Bretheren we must never ever forget that we are …ambassadors for Christ Jesus we must behave the part.**

**OUTLINE**

1. **KNOWLEDGE, LOVE, AND EATING THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS (1-6)**

**We want to make sure that love, is above wisdom!!!**

 **A. THE SUPREMACY OF LOVE OVER KNOWLEDGE (1-3)**

 1. Knowledge puffs up a person, while love edifies (**1**)

 2. Knowledge can lead one to think he knows more than he really

 does (**2**)

 3. While he who loves God is known by Him (**3**)

 **B. KNOWLEDGE IN RELATION TO THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS (4-6)**

 1. true Knowledge concurs that an idol is nothing, and that there is

 only one God and one Lord (**4-6a**)

 2. For Christians that means the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (**6b**)

**II. APPLYING LOVE TOWARD THOSE WHOSE CONSCIENCES ARE WEAK (8-13)**

 **A. NOT ALL HAVE CORRECT KNOWLEDGE, OR STRONG CONSCIENCES (7)**

 1. Some eat things that were offered to idols with consciousness

 of the idol (**7a**)

 2. In so doing, they defile their weak consciences (**7b**)

 **B. DO NOT LET THAT WHICH IS INCONSEQUENTIAL BECOME A STUMBLINGBLOCK**

 **(8-9)**

 1. Food or the lack of it does not effect our relationship with

 God (**8**)

 2. But if we are not careful, our liberty concerning food can

 become a stumbling block to others (**9**)

 **C. ABUSE OF KNOWLEDGE AND LIBERTY CAN LEAD TO SIN AGAINST CHRIST!**

 **(10-12)**

 1. Through improper exercise of knowledge and liberty, our

 example might encourage others to violate their weak

 conscience (**10**)

 2. Through improper exercise of knowledge and liberty, we may

 cause others to perish, which is a sin against Christ! (**11-12**)

 **D. PAUL'S OWN APPLICATION (13)**

 1. If food makes his brother to stumble, he will never again eat

 meat (**13a**)

 2. Lest he make his brother stumble (**13b**)

**END CHAPTER 8**