

We will be covering two chapters this week. 1 Corinthians 8-9

In chapter 8 Paul is dealing with the issue of Christian liberty. Read the chapter at least twice before starting. You may be thinking to yourself after reading it, how is this relevant for a believer today? Often we are asked to participate in something that could possibly offend a weaker brother. Remember Paul is speaking to them as carnal, babes in Christ. 1 Cor. 3:1

Paul is addressing a question that the Corinthian believers had written to him about. Is it okay to eat meat offered to idols?

We must know God's word in order to obey it but we must be very careful.

- 1. What can happen to us if our emphasis is too much on possessing knowledge?**

John MacArthur said in his commentary on 1 Cor.8 "those believers were mature in knowledge, but were not mature in love. They were solid in doctrine but weak in love. They were strong in self-love but weak in brotherly love."

- 2. How did Paul refer to them in 1 Cor. 4:18-19? Underline the word he uses to describe them.**

Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. But I will come to you very soon, if the LORD is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have.

- 3. How does he refer to them in 1 Cor. 5:2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?**

This is a warning to me, knowledge by itself brings arrogance, not maturity. It is all too easy to think arrogant thoughts.

James 4:6 *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

- 4. How well do you treat your fellow family members?**

1 Jn.5:1 "...everyone who loves the father loves his child as well"

5. Paul agrees with the believers in verses 4-6. What truth does he clearly express?
6. In verse 7 what does he say the problem is for those who are new converts?
7. What are the statements Paul makes that will help those new believers see that food offered to idols cannot defile us? Vs. 4,8

8. In spite of the three stated facts that we have just seen

We know that we all possess knowledge.

We know that an idol is nothing

Food does not bring us near God

Write out Paul's warning to believers from verse 9 in your own words.

9. Who are we to be concerned about? Vs. 10

10. What is the purpose of a Christian's conscience?

11. When we violate our conscience what happens?

12. What feelings are we filled with?

13. Has God brought to your mind an area where you may be leading others into a violation of their conscience by exercising your liberty?

14. Look at verse 12 is this a serious matter?

15. Now that we are aware of the seriousness of carrying out our liberty with love for others do you think you will need to make any changes in behavior or actions? Explain.

16. How seriously does Paul take his decision? Vs.13

17. Write down some guidelines or a check list of questions to ask yourself that will help you the next time you are making a choice about whether or not to participate in a particular behavior.

Chapter 9 is all about surrendered rights. Paul is such a wonderful example to the Corinthians and to us today. Let's dig in and see the truths that God has for us and the changes we need to make and perhaps our faulty thinking.

It is all too easy sometimes to rock along and consider the status quo to be good enough. But is it when we are talking about our walk of faith? Let's start with prayer and ask God to help us identify areas where we are living this way. Let's raise the bar on ourselves and live pleasing to Him. As always read the chapter at least twice before beginning to answer the questions.

- 1. Define the term apostle?**
- 2. Had Paul met the requirements?**
- 3. When did that happen? Acts 9:5**
- 4. What is the tangible proof of his apostleship? Vs.1**
- 5. What does he call them in vs. 2-3 that lends credit to his position?**
- 6. It is customary to pay workers; Paul gives 3 examples to further make his point. List them from vs.7.**

7. **Should this care not be true for God's workers as well?**
8. **What provisions should be made for the man of God who leads a local church if at all possible?**
9. **What further proof does Paul share in vs.8-9?**

I love verse 10, what a beautiful picture of the hope that is awaited. God's blessing on man's labor. If you have ever planted something and waited for it to mature you will understand what Paul is talking about here.

10. **What does Paul say he has done in vs.11?**
11. **Which is of greater value spiritual or material?**
12. **Paul invested his time sowing something of eternal value in them isn't it reasonable that they would meet a material need for him?**
13. **In spite of the fact that they obviously were meeting the needs of other spiritual leaders as they traveled through their city, what does Paul say he will do about their lack of care for him?**

Highlight the word "right" and "rights" in vss.12-18. What did you learn from Paul's example here? How do you respond when your rights have been neglected by others?

14. **What spiritual claim did Paul have on the Corinthian believers? 1 Cor. 4:14-15**
15. **What has been the pattern for those who are the Lord's servants? Vs. 13**
16. **What was the pattern that Jesus ordained in Lk.10:1-7?**

1After this the LORD appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.2He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the LORD of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.3Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.4Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.5"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.'6If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you.7Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

17. **The apostle Paul mentioned two reasons why he would not force the issue of his rights vss.15-18, list them. Is it enough for you to know you have been used by God in someone's spiritual life?**

18. Paul explains that he would give up any and every right for

_____.

19. Paul said to the Jews he became a Jew, (vs.20) what did he mean by this statement? Wasn't he born a Jew from Tarsus? Acts 22:3

20. What does Paul mean in vs.21 when he says to those not having the law I became like one not having the law?

21. Paul gives his reasons in vs. 22 – 23 for how he responds to those he meets, list them.

22. Do you share this response toward others? What would this look like in your relationships?

23. What lengths will you go to for the lost?

24. Paul uses a sports concept in order to help those he is instructing to understand that it is crucial that we remain focused on the true goal. What is the prize that awaits those who faithfully serve our Lord? Vs.25

25. What have you done to train yourself to share the gospel with others?

26. Do you feel a bit more training would be helpful?

1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts set apart Christ as LORD. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

27. When was the last time you actually wept for the lost? Explain

28. Do you have the spiritual seed that Paul was talking about (vs.11) with you so that you too can sow it into someone else's heart?

Ps. 126:6 *He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.*

A life lived for Christ is the best gift that we can give to the one who gave his life for us.

Romans 12:1 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*