

Limiting our freedoms by our love

1 Corinthians 8:1-13, p. 928

I. DOES IT BUILD UP? LOVE, NOT PRIDE, MUST GUIDE OUR USE OF FREEDOMS (1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-3).

- A. Knowledge is secondary – Pride in our freedoms helps no one, but love acts to serve and encourage others (8:1).
 - “Knowledge puffs up; love builds up.”
- B. Love is primary – When loving God guides our behavior toward others, God is pleased (8:2-3).

II. DOES IT DESTROY? DON'T MAKE OTHERS STUMBLE BY INSISTING ON A FREEDOM YOU CLAIM TO HAVE (1 CORINTHIANS 8:4-13).

- A. Idols represent non-existent gods (8:4-6).
 - There is only one triune God who created all things through Jesus Christ and we exist for His purposes.
- B. Food is just food, but some who left idolatry do not feel free to eat meat associated with idols (8:7-8).
- C. Insisting on our right to do something can tempt other Christians to sin and do what is wrong for them (8:9-13).
 - Creating temptations is sin against believers and sin against Christ (9-12).
 - Love means restraining our use of any freedom we think we have if it damages someone else spiritually (13).