

October 5, 2014

Growing Pains

1 Corinthians 8

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NIV)

¹ Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge.

Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

² The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.

³ But the man who loves God is known by God.

When it comes to spiritual things, WHO I know must accompany WHAT I know.

⁴ So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one.

⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"),

⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

⁷ But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.

⁸ But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

¹⁰ For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have

this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols?

¹¹ *So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.*

¹² *When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.*

¹³ *Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.*

Just as Christ sacrificed His right because of love, we sacrifice our rights because of love.

Philippians 2:1-8 (NIV)

Our Commitment to Each Other

“I want you to know that I am committed to you. You’ll never knowingly suffer at my hands. I’ll always in every circumstance seek to help you and support you. If you’re down and I can lift you up, I’ll do that. Anything I have that you need, I’ll share with you; and if need be I’ll give it to you. No matter what I find out about you and no matter what happens in the future, either good or bad, my commitment to you will never change. And there’s nothing you can do about it. You don’t have to respond. I love you and that’s what it means.”