

To Know and To Love

I Corinthians 8

Introduction:

- A. Two biblical Greek translated as “know”
1. One refers to i_____ knowledge (facts)
 2. The other refers to p_____ knowledge (experience)
 3. English translations use forms of the word “know” _____ times in I Cor 8:1-3
 - a. The first occurrence refers to f_____.
 - b. All the other occurrences refer to personal knowledge.
- B. Two biblical Greek words translated as “love”
1. One refers to a_____
 2. The other refers to an unselfish a_____, which is the word used in verse 1 and 3.
- C. A possible translation to bring out the Greek understanding:
*We all are aware of the fact that we all have personal knowledge of various things. That personal knowledge builds our own selves up, but **sacrificial love** builds others up. If anyone thinks he has attained ultimate personal knowledge about something, he really does not personally know it to the degree that he should. But if anyone has the lifestyle of **sacrificially loving** God, that person has become personally known by God.*
1. We all are at different points in our s_____ development which can cause issues if we insist on our own knowledge or experience.
 2. We must be respectful of one another’s stage of development by focusing on loving God fully and loving one another un_____.

Personal knowledge p_____ up ourselves (1,2,7-11)

- A. The Corinthian Christians disagreed over whether or not it was right to eat meat sacrificed to i_____ (v. 1)
1. Paul gives a principle in verse 8 that whether we eat a certain f_____ or abstain from eating it, does not make us better off or worse off before God.
 2. Many modern Christians make a similar error in the area of tobacco, alcohol, and diet – Rom 14:17 states that the kingdom of God is not e_____ or d_____ but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

3. The wrong question to ask is whether it is right or wrong; the right question to ask is “How does my abstaining or not abstaining affect my relationship to my fellow Christian?”
- B. A hypothetical situation (vv. 9-11)
1. A Christian goes into a public restaurant located in the outer courts of a pagan temple and eats meat that had been sacrificed to idols.
 2. Another Christian who is struggling in this area sees the above Christian eating the meat and decides to violate his conscience and eat it too.
 3. The warning is made in verse 9: do not carelessly exercise your freedom in Christ but carefully see that you do not become a stumbling block to a fellow Christian.
- C. Are we respecting one another’s conscience?
1. What if a believer is struggling with smoking?
 2. What if a believer is struggling with indulging in sweets?
 3. What if a believer is struggling with alcohol?

Unselfish love builds up others (1,12,13)

- A. God is the ultimate example of unselfish love
1. Jn 3:16 – it is seen in the action of the Father giving His only Son.
 2. Rom 5:8 – it is seen in the action of Jesus voluntarily dying for us.
- B. When we demonstrate such love (KJV – *charity*) toward one another, it builds one another up (KJV - *edifies*; NLT-*strengthens*) – verse 1.
1. It requires us to get ourselves off ourselves.
 2. It requires us to focus on the good of others.
 3. If we all do this there will be mutual edification (all give, and all receive)

Conclusion: - Loving God is a sign that we are personally known by God (verse 3)

1. Loving God does not save us but is a result of our salvation (1 Jn 4:19)
2. Loving God is demonstrated in our actions toward others.
3. Are you building up the faith of God?