

Faith, Fellowship and Flexibility

1 Corinthians 8: "What Does the Scripture Say?"

Introduction:

- A. In discussions of faith, fellowship and flexibility, 1 Corinthians 8 is a frequent discussion destination.
- B. What's the context of 1 Corinthians 8 and what will fit within its God-breathed boundaries?

I. 1 Corinthians 8: What's the Context?

- A. "Take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak (8:9).
 - B. "Now concerning foods offered to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge'" (8:1).
 - 1. Idolatry was an inexcusable sin (Rom 1:18-23; 1 Cor 10:14).
 - 2. "We know that an idol has no real existence" (8:4a).
 - 3. "We know... that 'there is no God but one'" (8:4b-6).
 - C. "However, not all possess this knowledge" (8:7).
 - D. "This 'knowledge' puffs up, but love builds up" (8:1-3).
 - E. Christians must "take care" that their "rights" don't become a stumbling block to the weak (8:9).
 - 1. "If anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple..." (8:10-11; 10:19-22).
 - 2. "Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience..." (8:12).

II. 1 Corinthians 8: What Will Fit Within Its God-Breathed Boundaries?

- A. "Food will not commend us to God" (8:8a).
 - 1. If we do *not* eat food formerly offered to idols, we are no worse off.
 - 2. If we *do* eat food formerly offered to idols, we are no better off.
- B. **We** must "take care" that whatever we bring to 1 Cor. 8 fits within its "will not commend" context.

III. What Must I Be Willing to Place Before My Personal Rights, Opinions and Preferences?

- A. The _____ (1 Cor 9:12, 19-23).
- B. _____ (1 Cor 18:13; 10:23-24; Eph 4:1-2; Phil 2:1-5).
- C. The _____ of the Spirit (Eph 4:3-6).
- D. In matters of faith: **UNITY**. In matters of opinion: **LIBERTY**. In all things: **LOVE**.

