

Love Limits Personal Freedoms

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Our current moment in the church calendar:

Following Advent, the church celebrates Epiphany proper on January 6, followed by several weeks focusing on different moments in the life of Jesus. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God in Christ and proclaims his presence to all. The Light of the world has come into the world to lighten up the darkness.

8:1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

-1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Community Group Discussion

If you’re not in a CG, this conversation can be had around the lunch table with family.

1. Ask someone who enjoys reading out loud to Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
2. What are some ways today that we might have the opportunity to restrict our freedoms around others for the sake of love?
3. Each family or person share a way that the group can be praying for you this month (don’t make it too heavy, we’re just getting to know each other). Based on these requests, spend a little time praying for one another.