





A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

HOLINESS IN FREEDOM





1 CORINTHIANS
OUTLINE

Opening Greeting and Prayer (1:1-9)

Addressing the Problems Chloe Reported (1:10-6:20)

Answering the Questions They Wrote About (7:1-14:39)

The Gospel: The Most Important Thing (15:1-58)

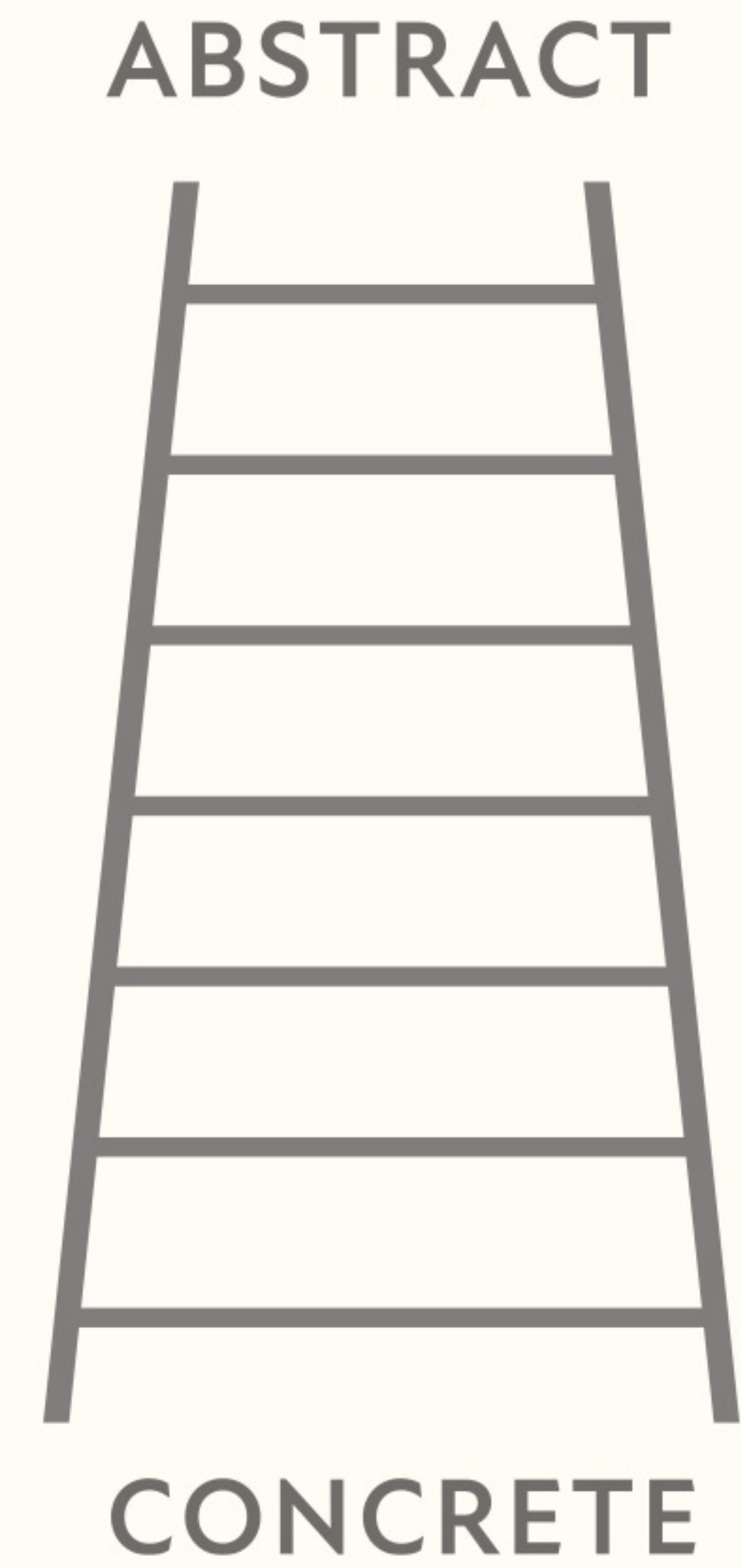
Generosity and Greetings (16:1-24)



QUESTION 2

Is it ok to eat food sacrificed to idols?

THE LADDER OF
ABSTRACTION





1 Corinthians 8:1-3 ^{NIV}

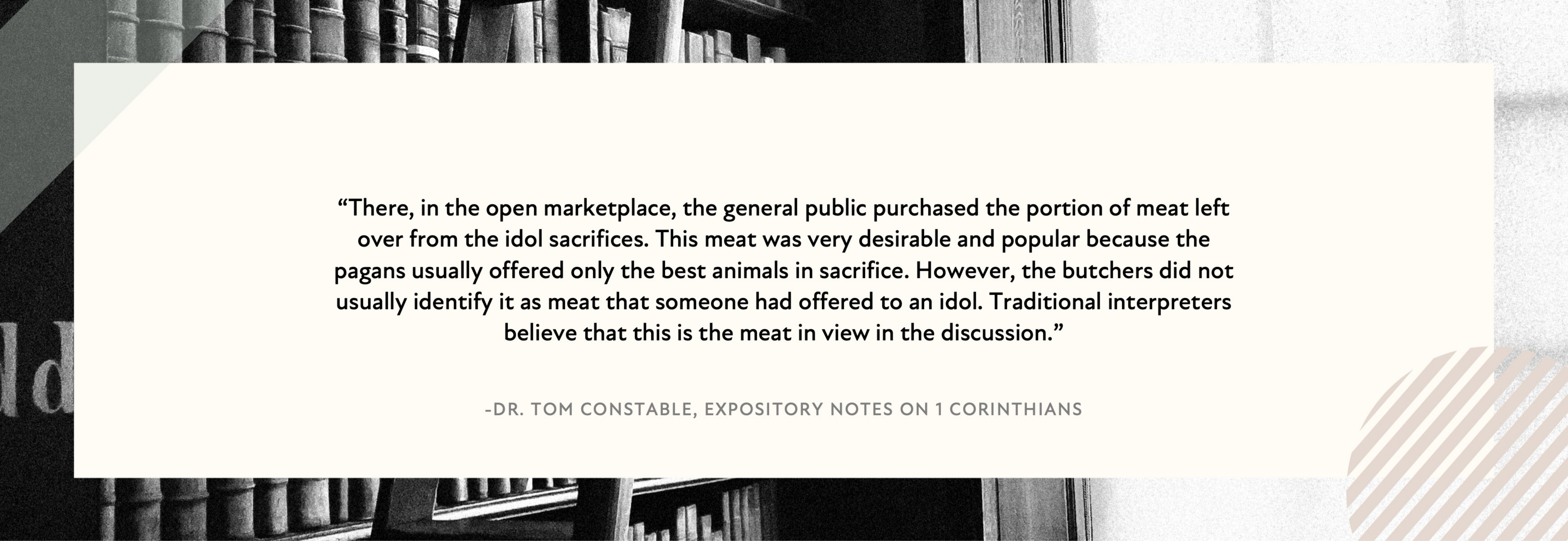
Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. ² Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. ³ But whoever loves God is known by God.



“Traditional interpreters of this passage have pointed out that in the Greco-Roman world of Paul's day pagan Gentiles offered sacrificial animals daily to various pagan gods and goddesses in their temples.

Only a token portion went to the deity and was burned up on the altar. The temple priests, attendants, and their families ate most of the meat, but frequently they could not eat all that the worshippers brought. So they sold what remained to the meat market operators in the agora (marketplace).”

-DR. TOM CONSTABLE, EXPOSITORY NOTES ON 1 CORINTHIANS



“There, in the open marketplace, the general public purchased the portion of meat left over from the idol sacrifices. This meat was very desirable and popular because the pagans usually offered only the best animals in sacrifice. However, the butchers did not usually identify it as meat that someone had offered to an idol. Traditional interpreters believe that this is the meat in view in the discussion.”

-DR. TOM CONSTABLE, EXPOSITORY NOTES ON 1 CORINTHIANS



TWO PERSPECTIVES

Permissive Party (“Libertines”) – primary concern was freedom

Extreme outcome: Licentiousness

Restrictive Party (“Legalists”) – primary concern was morality

Extreme outcome: Legalism

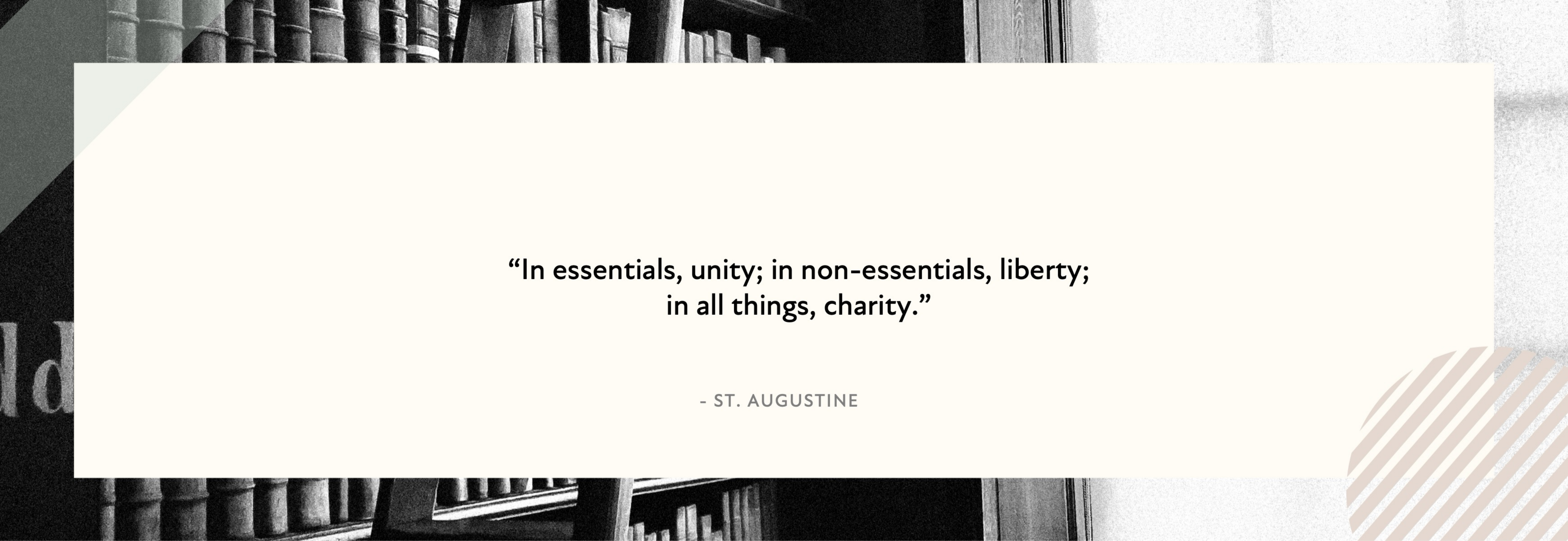




Romans 14:5-8 ^{NIV}

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.





**“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty;
in all things, charity.”**

- ST. AUGUSTINE



1 Corinthians 8:1-3 ^{NIV}

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. ² Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. ³ But whoever loves God is known by God.





1 Corinthians 8:4-6 ^{NIV}

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.





1 Corinthians 8:7-8 ^{NIV}

But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, 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.





1 Corinthians 8:9-12 ^{NIV}

Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.





“The exercise of personal freedom is never simply personal.”

-STEPHEN UM, THE WORD OF THE CROSS





1 Corinthians 8:13 ^{NIV}

Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.






TWO KINDS OF
FREEDOM

Freedom in Christ to partake in that which is not sinful, but is considered disputable.


Freedom to restrict one's freedom for the sake of a fellow believer who has a narrower perspective.





“Love is willing to restrict itself for the sake of others.”

- DAVID PRIOR, THE MESSAGE OF 1 CORINTHIANS

The background features a grayscale photograph of a library with rows of bookshelves filled with books. A large, light-colored rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text. In the bottom right corner, there is a decorative graphic consisting of a circle with diagonal stripes in shades of brown and beige.

**Concern for others is more important than
exercising personal freedoms.**



“If nervousness sets in when an individual thinks about freedoms that he might need to give up for the common good, that is a clear indication that he is enslaved by his entitlements.”

-STEPHEN UM, THE WORD OF THE CROSS






BRIDGING THE
CULTURAL GAP

What Happened?

What Happens?

What's Happening?



**Concern for others is more important than
exercising personal freedoms.**



MATURE

IMMATURE

PARTAKER

NON-PARTAKER





MATURE

IMMATURE

PARTAKER

NON-PARTAKER





MATURE

IMMATURE

PARTAKER

NON-PARTAKER





MATURE

IMMATURE

PARTAKER

NON-PARTAKER





MATURE

IMMATURE

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