

46-1Corinthians08

3:27Well, greetings, brethren, and welcome to another Bible study.

3:30This is, on Friday evening, and that means that, this is the 6th day, but, when the sun sets tonight, it will be the 7th day, not only the weekly Sabbath, but also the high annual Sabbath of the last day of unleavened bread.

3:47This evening we, God willing, we'll cover 1 Corinthians chapter 8, and I apologize, excuse me.

3:56And maybe just speaking to myself tonight.

3:58We didn't get to the person who normally sets this up.

4:04Wasn't able to set it up, so, I just went ahead and I've gone live, but I don't know if I'm really live on the channel, if there'll be brethren on the chat.

4:13I'll just go ahead and at least this will be in the archive, hopefully, for brethren to watch afterwards.

4:20I'll open with the word of prayer.

4:23Our loving Father, we come before you, Father, just very grateful.

4:28Thank you for bringing us through this week of unleavened bread for 7 days, Father, we've been faithful, keeping Len out of our homes and our lives, and learning from the physical love and the spiritual lessons.

4:44And we pray, Father, that these lessons will stay with us all our lives.

4:49We pray, Father, that you'll bless our study tonight.

4:52We thank you for Paul, the apostle.

4:56We thank you for the Corinthian brethren and how they were able to respond to his teachings and shepherding.

5:03And we pray, Father, that you'll help us to be responsive to your word.

5:07We praise you, Lord, and we thank you.

5:10We pray in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

5:12Amen.

5:13I'm just gonna check and see if I am live on Rumble.

5:16I don't think I am.

5:19So I'm not sure what has happened there, but I'll just go ahead and.

5:25Proceed and hopefully this will actually be recorded.

5:29If not, it'll be very edifying for me.

5:33Let's go ahead and I'll share my screen.

5:41You should be able to see this now, and I imagine this will be in the archive.

5:50And I just wanted to point this out before we get to chapter 8, verse 1, just two verses in chapter 7, just to remind us that Paul is responding to their questions.

6:01And so they have a question here concerning the things where of you wrote unto me, and that was that it's good for a man not to touch a woman.

6:08So that was their understanding, and they were writing to him regarding that.

6:13And so he was responding to that philosophy, that understanding.

6:17Then in verse 25, he says, now concerning virgins.

6:21And so they were asking him about virgins, and so he gave his judgment on that.

6:25 And then we come to chapter 8 and verse 1, and he says, now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge and just a second, I just thought, let me just see.

6:39 If there's something I can do, I just thought maybe I could share this stream.

6:45 But I'm not seeing how I can do that invite I can invite guests, but I don't want to do that.

6:50, no, I'll just have to proceed and hopefully, as I say, this will be in the archive.

6:57 OK, so he begins then saying, now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge and and we tend to quote this portion or this phrase that we know we all have knowledge, knowledge puffs up, but charity edifies, but I think we always forget, or very often frequently forget to tie it specifically.

7:22 The knowledge is tied specifically.

7:24 To things offered unto idol.

7:27 So we could reword this to say, we know that we all have knowledge.

7:33 Regarding things offered unto idols.

7:36 And so then in verse 4, we see him say, concerning, therefore, the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know, this is the knowledge that we all have.

7:48 That an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other god but one.

7:53 So this this is the knowledge that we all have.

7:56 So, that's what he's saying to these brethren and Corinthians, that we all understand this, that there's no other god but one God.

8:04 The idols are not, they're not gods, and we know this.

8:08 But he's saying something to them that there's a different emphasis of what he's saying in verse one.

8:15 Concerning things offered unto idols, yeah, we all have knowledge that there's only one god, and that these idols are not God.

8:21 The problem with this knowledge is that knowledge puffs up.

8:27 But agape edifies.

8:31 Meaning, although you have this knowledge and you're correct in possessing this knowledge, it's actually not bearing good fruit.

8:39 It's causing you to inflate your own ego at the expense of brethren who perhaps are new and they don't have this knowledge.

8:52 So all the teachers say may have this knowledge.

8:55 And then he goes on to say, OK, you have this knowledge.

8:58 If any man thinks that he knows anything.

9:02 He knows nothing yet as he ought to know.

9:06 And this goes back to what he was saying to them earlier, is I've fed you, I've given you milk and not meat because you're not able to bear the meat.

9:13 So there's a lot more knowledge.

9:14 We're, we're stewards of the mysteries of God, and there's a lot more that we could give you, but we're not giving it to you, so you don't know half of what you should know.

9:24 So, yes, you think you know something, but you don't know anything the way you ought to know.

9:30 You should, you should be eating meat by now, but I can't give that to you.

9:34 In Proverbs, Solomon says, do you see a man that's wise in his own knowledge?

9:40 There is more hope of a fool than of him.

9:43 So as we gain knowledge, there needs to be a humility that goes with us.

9:49 In Galatians 6 and verse 3, Paul says, for if a man thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

9:59 And this unfortunately is the state of the teachers in Corinth.

10:03 And and some of the brethren That they're in they have an inflated sense of their self-worth, and it's it's it's detrimental to the health of the congregation.

10:15 In verse 8 of chapter 4, Paul categorizes them as arrogant.

10:22 He says, now you're full, you are rich.

10:25 You have reigned as kings without us.

10:28 So you can see how puffed up they were, how arrogant they were, how maybe disrespectful and and disregarding they were of brethren.

10:37 And I wish that you did to God that you did reign, that we also might might reign with you.

10:43 So, clearly, the brethren in Corinth and the leaders in Corinth, the local leaders, there's a problem.

10:49 And in chapter 3 and verse 1, this is what I was saying earlier, he said, you know, brethren, I couldn't speak unto you as spiritual.

10:58 But as unto Carnal, even as unto babes in Christ, you think you have knowledge, you don't have anywhere near the knowledge that you should have.

11:06 And so I have to speak to you like babes in Christ, and I can only give you milk.

11:11 That's the amount of knowledge I can give you.

11:13 And, and not meat.

11:16 Because up to now, you were not able to bear it, and even now, you're not able to bear it.

11:21 So you, you're getting drunk on milk, your, your, your ego is being inflated on milk.

11:27 What would happen if I gave you meat?

11:29 And so be careful.

11:32 So he says in verse 2 of 1 Corinthians 8.

11:37 That if you think you know something, you don't know anything yet, the way you ought to know.

11:44 So knowledge puffs up, it's a problem.

11:48 What we really want is agape.

11:51 So you think you know something, you don't know anything yet, and then he says something surprising in verse 3.

11:57 He says So agape is what edify, and if any man loves God.

12:06 That man is known by God.

12:09 So, so he really turns this on its head.

12:12 And says, yeah, it's one thing to know a lot.

12:16 But what's more important is that God knows you.

12:20 And God knows you if you love him.

12:24 But the fact that you're puffed up is an indication that you actually don't have love.

12:31 And then he says here regarding those that love God, verse 9 of chapter 2, as it is written, I has not seen nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for them that love him.

12:48 So if you love God, you are known by him.

12:50 You're known of him.

12:51 He, he has a plan for us who love him.

12:54 So just having knowledge is one thing, but, but God having knowledge of us, that's what really matters, and he will have knowledge of us if we love him.

13:03 And if we love him, we'll love his children.

13:06 In Romans 8:28, Paul says to the Romans, and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

13:15 To them who are called according to His purpose.

13:17 And in James 1:12, blessed is the man that endures temptation, for when he has tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has prepared for them that he knows, to them that love him.

13:32 So he really it's a very.

13:36 Subtle but harsh correction.

13:40 To the brethren in Corinth, that your knowledge is shipwrecking you and it's shipwrecking your congregation, and God doesn't know you.

13:49 If you don't love him, he doesn't know you.

13:52 As concerning, therefore, so now he's he's coming to the issue.

13:57 We all have this knowledge.

13:59 And he's answering their question.

14:01 So now he just had to set the context about this knowledge.

14:05 And then he says in verse 4, as concerning, therefore, the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols.

14:14 We know this is the knowledge we have, that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other god but one.

14:21 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth.

14:26 As there be God's many and Lord's many, but to us there is but one God, the Father.

14:34 Of whom are all things, and we in him, and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

14:45 In John one, very similar language.

14:47, verse 6 I had here, maybe that's, I just wanted another verse.

14:52 Let me just see if I can get the actual, I think it might have been verse 8.

14:57 So Yes, I think it's just, let me just go down a little bit further, sorry.

15:05 John Where was I?

15:09 I'm sorry, let me just get my verse, my bearings here.

15:12 John one.

15:176, and what I wanted.

15:27 There it is, John, verse 3.

15:29 I, I, I mean verse 3.

15:31 So all things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made.

15:38 So this is so there's one God.

15:41 And that's the father.

15:43 And the Lord Jesus Christ.

15:45 So, the highest is the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ is under him, but God commissioned all creation.

15:52 To be done through Jesus Christ.

15:55 And so this is where Paul is just laying down the understanding that the the people think there are many gods.

16:03 There's only one God, and then the Lord Jesus Christ.

16:08 And that's repeated for us again here in Colossians 1 and verse 16, for by Christ were all things created that are in heaven and that are in earth.

16:18 Everything that was created was created by Christ, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, all things were created by Him and for Him.

16:30 This is the role of Jesus Christ.

16:32 the Father is the highest, and he has commissioned all creation through Christ.

16:37 And, and he, Christ is before all things, and by him all things consist.

16:43 And then Christ himself, when he was on earth, said in John 10:30, I and my Father are one.

16:51 So yes, there's one God.

16:53 And the Lord Jesus Christ.

16:55 So in terms of, if we define God as the highest being, that is the Father.

17:01 And then if we define God as a type of being, we're human beings, and there's another type of beings called God beings, then there's the Father and Jesus Christ and all creation.

17:13 Has been done through Jesus Christ and for Jesus Christ.

17:17 Back to 1 Corinthians 8 and 7.

17:20 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge.

17:24 So this is the issue now.

17:26 We all have knowledge.

17:28 All of us who are teaching, who have any time in this way, understand there's only one God.

17:33 All these other gods are just false, figments of people's imagination.

17:38 But now Paul is saying to these leaders who are drunk on their knowledge.

17:43 There is not in every man that knowledge.

17:46 For some with conscience of the idol, unto this hour, eat it as a thing offered unto an idol, and their conscience being weak is defiled.

17:58 So, these are very pagan culture, and these brethren have been called out of this very pagan culture.

18:05 And in their understanding, they're just coming into the truth.

18:09 They were living a life, their whole life was dedicated.

18:13 To worshipping these false gods, and there's temples everywhere and and the the reality of it just seems so real.

18:19 And now they're called out of it, and they accept Jesus Christ, but they believe that these idols still exist.

18:27 So when they're when they're in a situation where they're not eating meat that was offered to these idols, their conscience is defiled.

18:33 They just can't get, get over it.

18:36 Now those Christians who understand the idol is nothing, and they can eat it and doesn't bother their conscience, Paul is saying there's an issue here, because not everybody is at the same level as you are.

18:50 Verse 8.

18:53 But meat Commends us not to God.

18:57 For neither if we eat, are we the better.

19:00 Neither if we eat not are we the worst.

19:02 So this verse 8 is the reality of the situation.

19:06 So, so meat doesn't do anything in our standing with God.

19:09 Whether we eat the meat or we don't eat the meat, there's no, there's no change in our standing with God.

19:14 That's the reality, but he says not everybody has this knowledge.

19:18 And these people are now defiling their conscience, and once your conscience is defiled, then your spiritual walk is destroyed.

19:27 So this should be an issue for everyone.

19:33 Isaiah, so, so this now, I wanted to go to Isaiah because some would take versa to say it doesn't matter, we can eat everything.

19:40 We can eat pork, we can eat, we can eat the swine flesh, eat, eat seafood, it just doesn't matter.

19:46 Well, no, Paul is talking within the covenant community, within the, the construct of what is considered human food.

19:55 This is what he's saying, human food, whether we eat or we don't eat, this is not doing anything in our standing with God.

20:03 Because he's speaking with a community of believers, he's not talking about Unclean meat, which is not fit for human consumption.

20:12 And just, so he says, God doesn't care whether we eat or we don't eat.

20:17 Clearly, that's not talking about unclean food, because in Isaiah 66 and 17, speaking prophetically of the future.

20:25 He says they that sanctify themselves and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, so they're eating meats, but these are unclean meats.

20:40 They shall be destroyed together, says the Lord, so the the Lord cares.

20:44 But take heed, so that that's what the main there's another verse I was gonna quote.

20:49 But that's the main regarding the Sabbath.

20:50 But that's the main thing here that it does matter, just as the Sabbath matters to God, eating unclean meats, God is going to destroy those who do that.

21:00 So Paul is talking to a community of believers, and he's speaking specifically of human food.

21:07 Verse 9.

21:08 But you take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak, and that's the problem.

21:18 So your knowledge that the meat doesn't matter that it was sacrificed to an idol, it's still meat, and the idol is nothing.

21:25 Beware, because you have the liberty to do this, but in doing this, you might become a stumbling block to them that are weak.

21:33 And then he says, regarding liberty, 2 Corinthians 3 in verse 17.

21:38 Now the Lord is that spirit, and where the spirit of the Lord is, there's liberty.

21:43 So we have liberty, but how we use our liberty matters.

21:47 Galatians 5 and verse 13, for brethren, you've been called unto liberty.

21:52 Only don't use your liberty for an occasion to the flesh.

21:56 But by love serve one another, and this is exactly what he's teaching Corinth.

22:00 That yes, you have the liberty, but don't use it to puff up your ego.

22:04 Use it to serve one another.

22:07 Verse 10, he says.

22:11 If any man see you, which have knowledge.

22:17 So, they don't understand the knowledge that you have, but you have this knowledge and they see you, and they see you sit and meet in the idol's temple, which would be like a restaurant, and you stop to have lunch there.

22:30 Shall not the conscience of him, which is weak, be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols?

22:38 So as human beings, we tend to follow each other's examples.

22:42 We tend to imitate each other.

22:44 So the brother, the brother whose conscience is weak.

22:49 See You, let's see me, eating in the restaurant, knowing that all the food in that restaurant was offered to idols.

23:00 And so he thinks, well, I guess it's OK.

23:03 And so he goes ahead and he orders lunch, and then for the rest of the day, he's just, his mind is just troubled.

23:11 And then because he's ruined himself here, now his standards begin to drop everywhere.

23:18 And it's like, well, I'm already in the dog's house, I might as well do whatever I want to do now.

23:23 And so now he's totally shipwrecked.

23:25 And it all began because he saw us.

23:30 Eating in the restaurant.

23:32 When he was quite certain this is not, this is not a good thing to do.

23:36 He doesn't have the knowledge that we have.

23:39 He does it as well, and his conscience just destroys him.

23:43 It violates his faith.

23:45 Verse 11.

23:47 So you do this and you had a nice, we had a nice meal.

23:50 And he joins us, let's say, and he's just ruined now, he is just he's troubled.

23:56 And usually when people fall in one area, they just begin to fall everywhere.

23:59 It's like, you know, trying to do a lot of work with people to build good habits, and usually when they fall down, they just are not able to recover.

24:10 They just, it takes them a while to say, OK, let me get back on the horse.

24:15 And through your knowledge, shall the weak brother perish?

24:19 So because of what we're doing, we have this knowledge and we don't care, he's just, he's silly, he doesn't understand.

24:24 He'll grow up one day.

24:26 So we just do what we do, and then he's just ruined, and then Paul is asking this very, very serious question.

24:33 Through the knowledge that we have.

24:37 Will, will this brother just fall apart.

24:39 So he's, he's falling down.

24:41 He's eating meat that's, he's he's an idol he sees himself as an idolater.

24:45 Well, since I'm an idolater, I might as well be an adulterer.

24:49 I might as well be a thief.

24:50 It just doesn't matter anymore, and he's completely taken out now by Satan.

24:54 And in fact, Satan, knowing that his conscience is troubled, will definitely attack.

24:59 So the question now for us is, if we were here in Corinth.

25:03 Because we have this knowledge, we all have this knowledge.

25:07 But the new people don't.

25:09 Through our knowledge.

25:11 Will we cause these people to perish.

25:13 And Christ shed his blood for them.

25:16 So Christ paid the price for them, and are we so callous now?

25:21 That we just don't care for this high price that was paid for them.

25:25 This is what Paul is putting in front of them.

25:27 So they were asking him questions, he's not answering.

25:30 That's Romans 14.

25:32, you know, Paul has the message.

25:34 It's the same message to the, to the Romans.

25:37 He says, Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace.

25:42 And things where with 1 may edify another.

25:47 Paul is saying to the Corinthians the same thing.

25:49 This is how you should be thinking.

25:51 This should be in the core of your being.

25:53 How do you edify one another?

25:54 How do you build up the brothers, the brotherhood and the sisterhood?

25:58 For meat destroys not.

26:02 For meat, destroy not the work of God.

26:06 So just because you're hungry.

26:08 And just for the sake of meat, you're going to destroy the work of God.

26:12 Don't do that.

26:13 All things indeed are pure, so there's no issue here with eating the meat.

26:18 But it is evil for that man who eats with a fence.

26:23 So the brother has a weak conscience.

26:25 He joins us, he's eating, but all the time he's doubting himself.

26:30 And he goes ahead and he eats.

26:33 And He's just, it's it's evil.

26:38 Now he's he has committed a sin because he's he's not acting in faith.

26:42 For us, no problem.

26:44 But he says for meat.

26:47 Just for carnal pleasure, do not destroy the work of God.

26:52 It is good, neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

27:03 This is exactly what he was teaching to Corinth.

27:06 That the better path, the more honorable path, is even though you know something's not a problem.

27:12 If you know that it's a problem for a brother or sister, then you don't need to have that.

27:16 You don't want to have it.

27:17 You're going to refrain from it because the higher order objective is edification of the brother.

27:24 Do you have faith?

27:26 Yes, we have faith.

27:27 We can eat this, no problem.

27:28 Have it to yourself before God.

27:31 Happy is he that condemns not himself in that thing which he allows.

27:37 In other words, we need to have a clear conscience.

27:40 And he that doubts is damned if he eats, because he eats not of faith, for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

27:50 And then it goes into chapter 15, the next verse.

27:53 We then that are strong, ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves.

28:00 That passage just encapsulates perfectly what Paul is teaching the brethren in Corinth.

28:07 Verse 12.

28:08 But when you sin so against the brethren, you're just careless, you don't care, you have the knowledge, that's their problem.

28:15 When you sin so against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

28:23 This is serious.

28:26 This is serious.

28:28 So they were just feeling really great about themselves.

28:30 Paul is just knocking them down to size.

28:33 And saying this is a very serious infraction.

28:36 You are actually sinning against Christ, and you are actually destroying your brother.

28:42 In Matthew 18 and 10, he says to his own disciples, Beware that you despise not one of these little ones.

28:54 For I say unto you that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my father, which is in heaven.

29:01 These little ones are his disciples, and I've heard many, many times, people in the world think, oh, don't despise little children.

29:10 Be careful how you treat little children.

29:12 But this is not talking about physical little children, infants.

29:17 This is talking about spiritual infants.

29:20 This is talking about the the the covenant community.

29:23 And be careful not to despise anyone in the covenant community.

29:28 In Matthew 25 and 40, he says, the king shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you.

29:36 And as much as you have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me.

29:42 And that's the principle that this we are with the Holy Spirit, members of the body of Christ.

29:49 So anything we do to one another, we're actually doing to Christ, and he makes that very clear here.

29:56 The final verse of 1 Corinthians chapter 8.

30:03 Paul comes to the conclusion for them by example.

30:08 Paul is saying, with my with my understanding of the spiritual meat.

30:14 Of what we are involved in.

30:16 Here's the conclusion of the matter for me, and I hope for you, I hope for all of us.

30:21 Paul says, wherefore?

30:24 We could say, therefore, because of these this deeper understanding.

30:27 If meat makes my brother to offend, so if meat sears his conscience and causes him to stumble and to fall.

30:37 And to fall out of grace with Christ.

30:40 If meat makes my brother to offend.

30:43 I'll be a vegetarian.

30:45 I will eat no flesh.

30:48 While the world stands, that's quite a remarkable position.

30:51 It's the exact opposite of the Corinthian brethren.

30:54 So the Quincian brethren are, well, that's his problem.

30:57 I'm gonna go ahead and eat this meat.

30:59 Paul with his understanding of each member being a member of Christ's body.

31:06 Of the price that Christ has paid for each member of the body.

31:13 He whoa, I'm, I would not eat another piece of meat for the rest of the for the rest of the time this world until Christ returns.

31:22 That's Paul's understanding.

31:25 And that's what he wants the Corinthians to come to understand, lest.

31:30 I make my brother stumble.

31:32 That would be that's the worst possible thing that could happen in Paul's mind, is that he does something that causes his brother to stumble.

31:42 So that is 1 Corinthians chapter 8, and God be praised as a result of our observance of the feast of Unleavened bread, we've been able to have a study every night this week.

31:59 And now, as the sun sets, and we come into the high holy day, we'll be having our High observance, high day observance of the last day of unleavened bread.

32:13 I will be speaking tomorrow.

32:14 I, I know, most of you will be going out to your services, but, Pastor Murray has made the Zoom link, another congregation is hosting our kitchener congregation.

32:26 We'll be hosting and so they share their service via Zoom.

32:30 So if, if this message does get recorded and you do get to see it in the archive, and you do want to join us for Sabbath services tomorrow, then I should do it in a couple of minutes, it'll be today.

32:43 Then, please look out for the Zoom link on Slack or just reach out to Pastor Murray or myself, and we can share that with you.

32:50 It's been an honor and just a, a blessing brethren, to walk through these days of unleavened bread with you, and God be praised and may you have a wonderful, a blessed.

33:02 Last day of unleavened bread bread.

33:05 God be praised, blessings to you.