

Father's Day 2019

Trump Card

1 Corinthians 8

Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that “we all have knowledge” about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church...

So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. But for us, There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live. However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat. We don't lose anything if we don't eat it, and we don't gain anything if we do.

It is nothing...there is nothing wrong or right with the food!

But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble. For if others see you—with your “superior knowledge”—eating in the temple of an idol, won't they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed. And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ. So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don't want to cause another believer to stumble.

Paul says “There is nothing wrong with doing it...unless you love those people!”

New Christians who don't yet know...

Older Christians who don't understand...

Not yet Christians who think you shouldn't...

If you love them, then you actually can't do the thing...

Paul didn't leave it there though, He makes it personal

1 Corinthians 9

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to eat and drink? Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE NOT MADE USE OF THIS RIGHT, BUT WE ENDURE ANYTHING RATHER THAN PUT AN OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

BUT I HAVE MADE NO USE OF ANY OF THESE RIGHTS

If you are a Christian and you are still hung up on your rights, or what you have coming, what you deserve... you missed the WHOLE POINT!!!

Did you forget that you were dead?!?

You are literally living on bonus time that does not belong to you!

...nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

FOR THOUGH I AM FREE FROM ALL, I HAVE MADE MYSELF A SERVANT TO ALL, THAT I MIGHT WIN MORE OF THEM.

To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

TO THE WEAK I BECAME WEAK, THAT I MIGHT WIN THE WEAK. I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE, THAT BY ALL MEANS I MIGHT SAVE SOME.

That is what caused Paul to do all that he did

WHY?

He WANTED to give up his rights!

How can I get there? How can I love God AND people so much that I would be willing to sacrifice my rights and freedoms?

Paul clearly understood that there is more than this life!

Philippians 1:21-24

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

Heaven is next for him...but what about for you?

Hell is real

The implications are eternal

We are going to heaven!

Shouldn't we have the right to do whatever it is we want?

Not if we love...