

January 17, 2021
I Corinthians 8:7-13
Others

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

It may be that the apostle Paul had been faced with this situation before in Corinth. His determination was that if it was an offense to a brother in Christ for whom Jesus had died, he would do nothing to make a weaker brother fall. This is an enduring principle for Christian living. Verbrugge, V. D.

For some who did not yet have the knowledge they needed, their conscience bothered them about eating things offered to idols. They were still ignorant about the truth of false gods and idols. For them, it was wrong to eat meat offered to idols, so it was sin for them, see **Romans 14:23**, "But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin." (ESV) The solution to this would be found in imparting knowledge with love, not in knowledge alone.

Knowledge governed by love accomplishes the "building up" of a weaker brother.

A believer should be ready to limit his liberty at any time to any degree to help a weaker brother.

APPLICATION:

Liberty and freedom in Christ is to be exercised with care!

Paul loved these people and he told them like it was as he was moved by the Holy Spirit to do so. People have to be told biblical truths that at first may be hard for them to accept.

Proverbs 27:6 "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy." The person who possesses this "knowledge" must use this gift tempered with "love" to accomplish the "building up" of the weaker brother or sister. Paul was willing to forfeit some of the liberties he now possessed in Christ for the building up of OTHERS.