

**Conscience: Self  
& Others**

1 Corinthians  
Lesson 16  
Weds 6/27/2018

**TEXT:**

1 Cor 8:1-13 &  
10:23-33  
Rom 14:1-23

1 Cor 8:1 begins a section that runs through the end of chapter 10 – related to eating meat sacrificed to idols, idol worship, & personal liberties. 8:1 appears to begin another Answer from Paul, to a Question they had written him.

Idolatry was a large part of the Greek culture, & often involved eating meat at festivities related to idol worship. There appear to have been “restaurants” in the temple areas (8:10), & meat sold in the meat market may or may not have been from offerings in the idol temples (10:25, 27-28). While none of these things are issues in our culture, the **principles** still apply today. Some Christians mis-use or mis-apply these concepts, so we will try to understand what God intends for us.

After reading the texts above, let’s establish a few facts and principles.

1. Did idols really have any meaning or importance? (1 Cor 8:4-6)
2. So was eating meat that had been sacrificed to an idol a sin in and of itself? (1 Cor 8:4, 7-8; 1 Cor 10:25-26, Rom 14:14)
3. Is having Bible understanding / knowledge important? (Eph 5:15-17, Rom 14:22, Jn 8:32)
- 4.(a) Is understanding these facts all that matters? That is – could one just eat meat sacrificed to an idol without regard, since idols are meaningless? (1 Cor 8:1-3, 7-13, Rom 14:1-4, 13-16, 1 Cor 10:27-30)  
  
**(b)** Let’s state this as a general principle. Knowledge of what’s OK and not OK isn’t all that matters; we also have to take into consideration....?
- 5.(a) How could my doing something that’s NOT wrong cause someone else to sin? (I Cor 8:7-13, 1 Cor 10:24-29, Rom 14:1-4 & 10-20)  
  
**(b)** Besides my Christian brother, who else could I cause to stumble? (1 Cor 10:27-30)
6. How could my doing something that’s NOT wrong cause ME to sin? (Rom 14:1-4 & 10-20 & 22-23, 1 Cor 10:27-33, 1 Cor 8:9-12)

7. What is an underlying principle I should follow in deciding whether or not to do something? (1 Cor 10:23-24, 1 Cor 8:13, Rom 14:19-21)
  
8. What should really be my motivation behind *everything* I do? (remember, the examples given here involve a decision as simple as what we eat!) (Rom 14:22, 1 Cor 10:31-33, Rom 14:7-8)
  
9. It has not been uncommon in the church to hear someone say something like “You can’t do that, because it offends me” (citing Rom 14:21 in the NKJV). Is this using these passages correctly? Why or why not?
  
10. So – we’ve considered some principles; but meat sacrificed to idols isn’t a real issue today. What are some ways in which we might be able to apply these principles? (Consider Rom 14:5-6; Rom 14:1; Rom 14:2; Rom 14:13 & 16 & 23; 1 Cor 10:27-30; 1 Cor 8:7 & 9-11)