

21 JUNE 2026

Authentic Relationality:

Love That *Builds Up*

1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 12:28-31

Allen Lim



FOOD OFFERED TO IDOLS PROHIBITED?

Acts 15:20

write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood.

YES!

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Romans 14:14

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that **nothing is unclean in itself**, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

NO!

WHY INSIST ON EATING FOOD OFFERED TO IDOLS?

- Meat from sacrifices were sometimes distributed freely or very cheaply...
- Excess meats were often sold to the markets and were undiscernible from meats that had not been offered to idols.
- Those who felt prohibited from eating food offered to idols, may have had to restrict their diet to just vegetables.



“One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables” - Rom 14:2

PAUL'S FRAMEWORK: KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE

“¹Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.”

- 1 Cor 8:1-3

⁴ Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, **we know** that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

- 1 Cor 8:4-6

THE CORINTHIAN FALLACY



We 'KNOW' (1 Cor 8:4-6)

- An idol has no real existence!
- There is no God but one.
- Therefore, food offered to idols cannot pollute us. We can eat it!

THE CORINTHIAN FALLACY

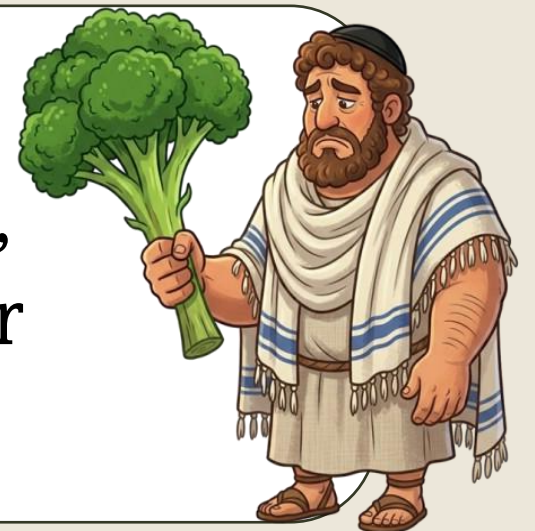


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BUT not all 'KNOW' (1 Cor 8:7)

- Some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.”



PAUL'S JUDGEMENT

“Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ **But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak**”

- 1 Cor 8:8-9



**The food is not
the main issue!**



Focus on this!!

‘KNOWLEDGE’ WITHOUT LOVE CAN LEAD TO SIN AGAINST CHRIST

“¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, **sinning against your brothers** and wounding their conscience when it is weak, **you sin against Christ.**”

- 1 Cor 8:10-12

PAUL'S EXAMPLE OF 'KNOWLEDGE' WITH LOVE

“¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.”

- 1 Cor 8:13

HOW CAN WE DO BETTER?

1. Recognize our Selfish Tendencies



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1. Recognize our Selfish Tendencies
2. Intentionally walk the path of Love.
3. Ask God to do the Heart-Work.

