

1 Corinthians 8

The things Paul addresses are what we might call gray issues, not sin issues, we have no liberty in sin issues.

v.1 Things offered to idols-

The meat offered on pagan altars was usually divided into three portions. One portion was burnt in honor of the god, one portion was given to the worshipper to take home and eat, and the third portion was given to the priest. If the priest didn't want to eat his portion, he sold it at the temple restaurant or meat market.

The meat served and sold at the temple was generally cheaper. Then, as well as now, people loved a bargain (including Christians).

The issue raised many questions for the Corinthian Christians: Can we eat meat purchased at the temple meat market? What if we are served meat purchased at the temple meat market when we are guests in someone's home? Can a Christian eat at the restaurant at the pagan temple?

- knowledge puffs up by itself, which thought he clarifies in chapter 13
- love seeks to edify through knowledge of the truth

Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies: Both **knowledge** and **love** have an effect on our lives in that each of them make something *grow*. The difference between **puffs up** and **edifies** is striking; it is the difference between a *bubble* and a *building*. Some Christians grow, others just swell!

v.2 if you think you have arrived, you know you haven't

- example of pastor at Dogwood Chapel questioning me years ago

v.3- *(1 John 4:7-11 NKJV) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. {8} He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. {9} In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. {10} In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. {11} Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

v.4-5 we know that idols are nothing, therefore things offered to them are nothing

- ie. jewelry in India

v.6 One God- Increasingly, in the name of tolerance, I am hearing people, even Christian pastors, say, “All three of the world’s great religions are monotheistic. And since they all believe there is only one God, then they must all worship the same God.” It sounds so logical, but it is completely untrue.

The god of Islam, named Allah, is an aloof, impersonal and arbitrary god who is never once referred to in the Quran as a god of love. The Christian God, Yahweh ([Exodus 3:14-15](#)), as revealed in the Bible, is a caring and personal God ([1 Peter 5:6-7](#)) who never changes ([Malachi 3:6](#) and [Hebrews 13:8](#)). He is also revealed to be a triune God — that is, one God in three persons ([Matthew 28:19](#)). He is also constantly portrayed as a God of love ([1 John 4:7-21](#)).

Further, Christians believe that Yahweh manifested Himself in the flesh in Jesus of Nazareth ([John 1:1-14](#)), and therefore Christians worship Jesus as God ([Matthew 28:19](#), [John 20:28](#) and [Philippians 2: 5-11](#)). Muslims argue instead that Jesus was just a prophet of lesser stature than Mohammed. And, in fact, they even deny that Jesus died on the cross or was resurrected. They contend that an imposter died in Jesus’ place and there was never any resurrection.

The Quran specifically denies that Jesus was the Son of God (Sura 112:1-4). Likewise, the Quran denies the triune nature of God (Sura 4:171).

So, how can it be said in truth that Christians and Muslims worship the same God, when Christians worship Jesus as God, whereas Muslims deny the deity of Jesus? There’s just no way to reconcile these diametrically opposing viewpoints.

Native Americans- Great Spirit

Hindus- 330 million deities

Buddists- There are no Buddhist gods per se, but that doesn't mean there are no gods. The Buddha taught that there are six realms comprising the circular world of becoming: Realm of gods. Realm of demi-gods (Asuras) Real of humans. Realm of animals. Realm of hungry ghosts (Pretas) Realm of hellish beings.

New age- you are god

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

v.7 some may have been involved in these thing before and it is for them a stumbling block

v.9-13 though we don't deal with meat offered to idols we have some gray areas too

- smoking/vaping
- tattoos
- drinking
- gambling
- mixed swimming
- dress code
- buffet dinner or show at casinos

The principle is that we don't let our liberty cause a brother to stumble. Again these are not sin issues, we don't have liberty to sin.

We are first to win people to the Lord, **with non compromising Gospel then**

Matthew 28: 19-20 "Go therefore [\[fn\]](#) and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,20"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, evento the end of the age." Amen.