James #17

Are you edifying others?

We need to keep our Royal sisters in Wyoming in prayer – Nancy, Trista and Tylee.

More so, please keep Donald in prayer. Trista’s uncle Donald – which is Nancy’s brother. Donald had a traumatic fall and his spine & neck have been severely damaged. He fell off a piece of farm equipment and was put in the trauma unit for a few days.

He has a long road of recovery ahead.

Open up today in 1 Corinthians chapter eight RF.

 As we get into this section of 1Corinthians we need to understand what the subject matter encompasses.

The church at Corinth had several problematic areas.

One was division over acceptable behaviors such as loose living among some and legalism among others.

They also had a struggle with arrogance over spiritual gifts because many wanted the attention and recognition over others.

This type of emotional nonsense is damaging for not only the growing Christian but even more so, for the new converts.

As I mentioned last lesson - false doctrine and legalism most be stomped out quickly before it infects many Bels.

This often arises around Christians who do not understand the power of God the HS, the importance of the word and what true spirituality involves.

/*Biblical viewpoint with regard to many things is totally different from human viewpoint. Most people follow human viewpoint about spirituality. Human viewpoint is that morality or being good is the same as spirituality. If the Unbeliever can do it, it is not spiritual. Spirituality is what makes the Christian life work and spirituality is the only basis for executing the commands of the Christian life, this is accomplished through the filling power of God the HS.*

 *Pastor Robert McLaughlin*  \

As we get into 1Cor chapter 8 let us first understand that there are four laws of Christian behavior which are designed only to operate on true spirituality, not emotional nonsense;

/The first of these 4 laws of Christian behavior is the law of liberty. It only operates in the filling of the Spirit. The Believer has the freedom to serve the Lord and it is a personal matter between God and that Christian.

Number two, is the law of virtue love, a law which is directed toward others, impersonally and unconditionally. This can and should, supersede the first law of freedom in many aspects of our contact with others.\

So, the spiritual Christian is not self- centered upon their own spiritual walk to the degree that it infringes upon or hurts the life of others.

This Christians knows their actions and words will have consequences in the life of others not just themselves.

 REPEAT

/The third law is, a responsibility of expediency. This is directed toward a lost world and the Unbelievers in it. It is understanding the gospel and your life must be accountable in accuracy and to be driven by GOD, not emotions.

Then there is the fourth law, it is one of supreme sacrifice. Sometimes a mature Bel is called to sacrifice their own pleasure or goals for the greater good of others.\

These four laws for a maturing Christian will help navigate them in many gray areas, when they are not sure there is an easy Biblical answer.

/1Cor 8:1 Now **concerning food sacrificed to idols**, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes *one* **conceited** (*physioō*), but love edifies *people.*

The Apostle Paul is saying we all have knowledge (gnosis). Yet what type of knowledge matters, the balance is virtue love, which is only achieved in the new nature.\

FOO-SEE-OT-O, means to blow up or inflate into arrogance, to puff up with pride.

Worldly knowledge and even BD not accurately handled, is a source of blind arrogance for some people.

/1Cor 1:8 – *agape’ oikodomeō,*

But love edifies, knowledge outside of the filling power of the HS becomes a source of arrogance. What you are building in your soul (ECS), should reach a point where it ignites the Fruit of the Spirit, which touches outward to a lost and dying world. \

AH-GAP-A OH-COIN-DA-MAYO, virtue love in our new nature is the action of building others up.

Edifies is written in the present, active indictive of the verb – *oikodomeō.*

The present tense tells us, we keep on going in this direction.

The action is on the Christian who is continually growing and applying God’s word. Continually walking by means of the HS. The indictive mood, is a dogmatic statement of fact.

 REPEAT

Real spirituality is not hidden in your closet at home and only comes out on Sunday, it grows and eventually reflects in your daily life.

The Apostle Paul is dealing with a predominately Greek culture in Corinth, a culture who worshipped many gods and had many rituals.

It was common for meats sacrificed to idols in their temples to be given out or even purchased by Greek citizens.

It was also common for the wealthy Greeks to have banquets where they cooked large slabs of meat.

Some portions were sacrificed to gods like Zeus, while the rest was enjoyed by the people at the banquet.

He is calling upon the more mature Bels to step up and be the example. He wants them also to move away from arrogance and petty divisive behaviors.

There seemed to always be a lot of petty disagreements and judging in the congregation of Corinth.

[1Co 8:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/2/s_1070002) If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;

IF is a Greek first-class condition, we know this to be true.

/Knowledge of doctrine when you are filled with the Spirit edifies in two ways: through application and through adding more (BD) depth of knowledge by means of the power of the Holy Spirit under accurate teaching of the Word. In the case of some Bels at Corinth, a little knowledge was being mistaken for a lot of knowledge. Perhaps they had a small amount of doctrine yet applied it in the flesh (inaccuracy). \

[1Co 8:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/3/s_1070003) but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

/1Cor 8:3 - If (1st class condition) any Bel persistently loves God. IF and it is true, that loving GOD with fellowship intact, habitually, persistently you are becoming KNOWN (more intimate with HIM). The IF here presents a clause – something has to be handled in the right fashion to be true! Spirituality is fueled by accurate knowledge not by emotional highs and lows. \

In essence, the Apostle Paul is warning that many were not applying BD and growing.

They had a little knowledge and all it did was bring arrogance into the picture.

Intimacy with GOD happens at the deeper levels of understanding and applying BD.

[1Co 8:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/4/s_1070004) Therefore, concerning the eating of food sacrificed to idols, we know that an idol is nothing at all in the world, and that there is no God but one.

Now we are going to see the application of those four laws all maturing Christians have to learn to live by.

The law of personal liberty, the law of virtue love, the law of the responsibility of expediency and the law of supreme sacrifice.

Because now we will see a type of gray area for these Corinthian Bels.

This gray area is when a Christian is put in a position that may become compromised and there isn’t a quick and easy Biblical answer.

[1Co 8:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/5/s_1070005) For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords,

IF - is again the truth of a first-class condition.

The cosmic system is infected by false gods, idols and demonic entities.

/[1Co 8:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/6/s_1070006) yet **for us there is only one God**, the **Father**, from whom are all things, and we *exist* for Him; **and one Lord, Jesus Christ,** by whom are all things, and **we *exist* through Him**.

It is only through Christ that we are connected to the Triune God. This statement places FATHER and SON on equal authoritative ground.\

Now as we begin to look at idols or gods and foods sacrificed to idols.

We are looking at the fact that we live in a world filled with false gods and idols.

Anything we spend the majority of our time, talent and treasure on is a type of idol.

Therefore, how do we handle these situations that surely will face us in our temporal walk?

/[1Co 8:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/7/s_1070007) However, not all people have this knowledge; but **some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat *food* as if it were sacrificed to an idol**; and **their conscience**, being **weak**, is **defiled.**

The Bel with a level of maturity knows that the idol is nothing, they can eat the meat, it doesn’t make any difference where it came from, yet the weak Believer is now confused.\

We are all free to operate from our own personal liberty…that freedom, which exists between you and GOD, no other Christian or pastor can judge that.

/The law of liberty is between you and GOD - yet take into account the other 3 laws of true spirituality. Ask yourself, can I become conducive and not combative at every challenge? Do I edify others or just myself? When in an area of gray (uncertainty) fall back on those four spiritual principles. Are you walking in virtue love and are you presenting the Christian life accurately? \

[1Co 8:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/8/s_1070008) Now food will not bring us close to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.

/Nothing outside of doctrine motivating from the soul and the filling power of God the HS brings closer intimacy with GOD. Not any works or deeds resembling morality or what you believe is spiritual brings you closer to God – you do not work your way into maturity or into God’s greater grace. Your relationship with GOD was given in the temporal, through the completed canon of scripture and the filling power of God the HS.\

[1Co 8:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/9/s_1070009) But take care that this freedom of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

Mature Bels understand this concept.

Immature Bels fall back on their freedom, basically saying – *oh well, I have my own relationship with GOD, no one can judge me. It’s too bad your weak in that area, because I’m not.*

These are often the immature Bels who use grace as a license to sin.

The Apostle Paul teaches a similar principles in Romans chapter 14;

/Rom 14:5 One *person* values one day over another, another values every day *the same.* **Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind**.

Rom 14:22 **The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God**. Happy is the one who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But the one who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and **whatever is not from faith is sin.**\

[1Co 8:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/10/s_1070010) For if someone sees you, the one who has knowledge, dining in an idol’s temple, will his conscience, if he is weak, not be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?

You can never live in the doctrine of freedom as exclusion to become an island unto yourself.

That is not the Christian way of life – the simple reality is, the spiritual life serves others.

 REPEAT

/Virtue Love that comes from our union with Christ is never callous. It will remain steadfast, strong and will not be compromised. Yet it is empathetic and always seeking reconciliation, as well as a willingness to guide others to the truth. There is a balance to walking in the strength of who you are in Christ, yet remaining empathetic toward others around you.\

[1Co 8:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/11/s_1070011) For through your knowledge the one who is weak is ruined, the brother *or sister* for whose sake Christ died.

Your Edification Complex of the Soul is your personal responsibility.

Yet, also as we begin to mature, we have to consider how we touch the soul of those in our periphery.

Especially to the new Believer and truthfully, even Unbels. Those who watch us as Christians and assume we are living a spiritual life.

We are all heavenly representatives and ambassadors for Christ.

What does your life say to others?

[1Co 8:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/12/s_1070012) And so, by sinning against the brothers *and sisters* and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

/Mat 25:40 “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to **the extent that you did *it* for one of the least**of these brothers *or sisters* of Mine, **you did *it* for Me**.’\

Even the worse Bel in your life is still a child of GOD - they are still part of the body of Christ.

Never forget that fact!

/[1Co 8:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/8/13/s_1070013) Therefore, **if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again**, so that I will not cause my brother to sin.

This speaks to that 4th spiritual law – supreme sacrifice. There are times when this is called for in a Bel’s life.\

An example of this may be seen within marriage – if one spouse is an alcoholic, the other should sacrifice that for the sake of the one who struggles.

/When you developed true, virtue love, RMA, in the edification structure you have it because you have doctrine, and it is doctrine that edifies and builds the structure. Therefore, the inhale of doctrine (hearing, studying) erects the structure and this eventually should have an exhale – application, Fruit of the Spirit.\