

Love Builds Up

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1. Intro:

1. **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** – Paul is concerned with the church as a whole. He wants to make sure the church is growing spiritually.
2. **1 Corinthians 10:23** – Not everything that is okay to do edifies the body of Christ—the church.
3. **1 Corinthians 10:24** – In the Christian community we don't look out only for ourselves, but for the well-being of others as well.

2. The issue raised by the Corinthians about eating meat sacrificed to idols cannot be resolved with knowledge only.

“When animals were sacrificed to the gods in the heathen temples, part of the animal was given to the officiating priests, who sold the meat. Some of this meat found its way into the public markets. Two questions were thus raised:

1. Was it proper to buy such foods in the public markets and eat it, and
2. was it right to eat such food when visiting in the home of heathen friend?” The SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 6, p. 719
 1. **1 Corinthians 8:1** – This issue in the church should be handled with love.
 2. **1 Corinthians 8:2** – True knowledge goes beyond theory. It is exercised with love. To know the theory of what is right does not edify.
 1. Knowledge without love = intellectual theory that leads to arrogance and oppression (superficial knowledge .
 2. Knowledge with love = wisdom.
3. Knowledge is important, but not enough to edify the body of Christ. (See **1 Corinthians 13:2**.)
 1. **1 Corinthians 8:4-6** – There is only one God and idols does not exist.
 2. **1 Corinthians 8:7** – Some believers, specially those that came from paganism into Christianity, believe that if you eat meats that were offered to idols you are worshiping the idols.
 3. **1 Corinthians 8:9-10** – We must abstain from our rights, and from what is not wrong in order not to cause a believer to stumble in his faith.
4. Exercise discretion on this matter.
 1. **1 Corinthians 10:25, 27** – Do not ask if meats were offered to idols

2. **1 Corinthians 10:28** – But if I am told that it has been offered to idols I don't eat for the sake of those who observe that can misunderstand my action.
3. Jesus gives the same example:
 1. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now." John 16:12
 2. "Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a [i]piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you." Matthew 17:27
5. Paul concludes with the principle that can bring edification to the body of Christ.
 1. **1 Corinthians 10:33** – We don't seek our own rights, but the profit of many (what is best for the body).