



Knowledge Versus Love

By Derek Kiser on April 8, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 8

My guess is that you have never struggled with the topic for today. My guess is your meat comes from the grocery store and the only place that cow has been was on a farm before it went to the meat processing plant. My guess is the concern that you might be eating meat that was offered as a sacrifice has not entered your mind. The FDA would never allow that. However, we can learn principles from this passage.

There seems to be a battle at some points in the Christian life over choosing knowledge or love. We are not talking about issues that the Bible is very clear on and condemns, but some other gray areas or matters of conscience. I can think of many topics that fit this category, some are even generational. Sometimes we grow up thinking something is sinful or wrong or evil and have never stopped to think if the Bible says anything about that?

The principle we can apply from this text is we need to be careful of others' consciences. If someone thinks something is a sin, we do not need to blatantly do it and offend them or their conscience. This is difficult because sometimes what they think is a sin is not and they are totally wrong. The decision, then, is do you try to puff up with your knowledge and act superior or, with love, yield to the weaker brother or sister for the sake of their conscience? The scripture in this example teaches we can sin by wounding the other person's conscience (vs. 12).

I do not think we have this one figured out yet. How can we love those who do not think like us on issues and respect them while they are figuring out what they believe? This applies to meat sacrificed to idols, Covid, and whatever is next on the horizon for us to disagree about.

PRAYER: God, help me love when issues of conscience come up regardless of whether I am the weaker or more knowledgeable one in a scenario. Help love win in my heart over knowledge when a conscience issue comes up with another person.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 9

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