

# “Discipleship”

## Week 3: “The Heart of Discipleship” (cont’d.)

Faith Bible Church  
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### 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (New American Standard Version)

1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. 2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; 3 but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.

5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, 6 yet for us there is but 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.

7 However not all men 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. 8 But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. 9 But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 1

0 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? 11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. 12 And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.

**Background concerning “meat sacrificed to idols”:**  
(Acts 15:13, 19-20, 22-29; Acts 21:25; Revelation 2:14, 20)

*-this was a familiar part of worship for both Jew and pagan, and provided a social event for “connecting” with the deity being worshipped.*

**As we continue our study on discipleship, we would do well to remember three key facts about the heart of discipleship:**

- I. Living faithfully as a disciple is not about **knowledge**, but about **love**.  
(vv. 1-3)  
*- the contrast was between knowledge & freedom, and love & submission*  
*- love: God’s for us, ours for God, and ours for one another*
- II. Our life as a disciple is centered on one **God**, the **Father**, and on one **Lord, Jesus Christ**. (vv. 4-7)  
*- our sole focus is on God- not self, or anything we have raised up as an idol in our life*
- III. There *must* exist within us the willingness to surrender the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ which is rightfully ours, rather than to cause a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 7-13)

**Romans 14:13-16** 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this — not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. 14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. 16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

**Romans 14:20-21** 20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. 21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.

**Philippians 2:3-8** 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.