

Paul's First Letter to
the Corinthians

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

1 Corinthians 8:2–3 (ESV)

Class Time

- Prayer Requests
- Scripture Reading and Summary – **1st Corinthians 8:1-13**
- Class Discussion:
- Outline and Lesson

1 Corinthians 8:1–13 (ESV)

1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.

2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.

3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”

5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—

6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.

9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols?

11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.

12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

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Summary Statement

The Corinthians claimed “knowledge” regarding meat offered to idols is arrogance, indicating a lack of true knowledge – knowing God and being known by Him. Even though idols do not really exist and there is only one true God, not everyone understands this, causing them to violate their conscience should they eat of such meat. Believers, when exercising their knowledge and rights must be careful not to cause weaker Christians to sin, thus sinning themselves. Paul says he will never exercise those rights if it makes other Christians stumble.

**Discussion
Question #1**

In 8:1-3 which addresses the question from the Corinthians' letter about eating food offered to idols, what is the “knowledge” they think they have? How does Paul characterize this knowledge? What does true knowledge look like?

**Discussion
Question #2**

These verses (see next slide) point to our being known by God. Read and meditate on them in order to give a studied answer to the question, “What does it mean to be known by God?”

1st Corinthians -- 8:1-13

Discussion Question #2 (Verses to read)

Exodus 33:17, 1 Kings 8:39 2 Chronicles 6:30, Job 34:21, Psalm 7:9, Psalm 34:15, Psalm 119:168, Psalm 139:1–16, Psalm 142:3, Isaiah 43:1, Isaiah 45:3–4, Isaiah 48:8, Jeremiah 1:5, Jeremiah 17:10, Jeremiah 18:23, Jeremiah 23:24, Jeremiah 29:23, Jeremiah 32:19, Hosea 5:3, Amos 5:12, Matthew 6:7–8, Matthew 6:31–32, Matthew 9:4, Matthew 12:25, Matthew 26:33–34, Mark 2:8, Mark 14:29–30, Luke 5:22, Luke 11:17, John 1:47, John 2:25, John 4:16–18, John 4:39, John 10:3, John 10:14, John 13:37–38, Acts 1:24, 1 Corinthians 13:12, Galatians 4:9, 2 Timothy 2:19, Hebrews 4:13, Revelation 2:9, Revelation 2:13, Revelation 3:1–2, Revelation 3:15–16

Under what obligation does being known by God place us? See Gal 4:9; 2 Tim 2:19.

**Discussion
Question #3**

Galatians 4:9 (ESV) But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

2 Timothy 2:19 (ESV) But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

I. Pride of spiritual knowledge vv1-3

a. Arrogance of false knowledge

v1

b. Absence of true knowledge v2

c. Importance of real knowledge

v3

II. Perspective of spiritual knowledge

vv4-7

a. Reality of idols vv4-5

b. Existence of the true God v6

c. Defilement of conscience v7

III. Practice of spiritual knowledge

vv8-13

a. Food is neutral before God v8

b. Truth can damage the weak vv
9-12

c. Restraint will spare the weak
v13