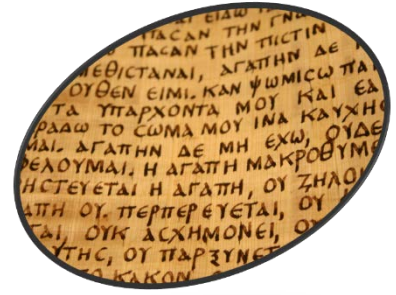


# 1 Corinthians – “Unity in Christ”

## Lesson #9



- I. **Introduction**<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Temples and idol worship in Corinth
  - b. Jerusalem council (see Acts 15:19–20, 29)
  
- II. **Puffy knowledge or solid love?**
  - a. Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-3
  - b. Knowledge and wisdom are important. What is the fruit of the Spirit? (vs 1)
    - i. See Galatians 5:22-26
  - c. What warning comes with verse 2?
    - i. See Galatians 6:3; Romans 12:3
  - d. How can love build others up? (vs 3)
    - i. Ephesians 4:16
  - e. Why does Paul emphasize that God “knows” us? (vs 3)
    - i. See Galatians 4:9; Jeremiah 1:5; 1 John 4:19
  
- III. **So-called “gods”? Get real...**
  - a. Read 1 Corinthians 8:4-6
  - b. How does the prophet Isaiah back up what Paul declares in verse 4?
    - i. See Isaiah 44:9ff
  - c. What is Paul quoting when he says, “God is one”? (vs 4)
    - i. See Deuteronomy 6:4
  - d. Is there a difference between “heart knowledge” and “head knowledge”?
    - i. If so, how does that apply to verse 5?
  - e. In the present day we have many “gods and lords” (vs 4), but they differ in from Corinth and the ancient world. Explain.
  
- IV. **Free... to do the right thing**
  - a. Read 1 Corinthians 8:7-13
  - b. Verse 7 states a problem. What do some Christians experience in eating this food that has been a sacrifice to idols?
    - i. See Romans 14:14
  - c. Again, verse 9 states another problem. How can our behavior create a stumbling block or temptation for others to sin?
  - d. We may understand that something is not sinful, but what does Paul appeal to that’s more important than knowledge? (vs 1)

<sup>1</sup> Lockwood, G. J. (2000). [1 Corinthians](#) (p. 271). Saint Louis: Concordia Pub. House.

- e. What modern examples are like the question in verse 10?
- f. What's at stake? (vs 11)
- g. What implications do verses 7-13 have in our current churches?
- h. Try to sum up chapter 8 in a short phrase.
- i. In prayer and reflection, consider your behavior as a possible stumbling block to others... where might you change?

V. **Next time...**

- a. Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-27