

Freedoms in Christ 1 Corinthians 8.1-13 ctw – Philippians 1.3-11

Intro: Recap of the Letter so far: Pride has entered the church, and the body had become self-serving, arrogant and blind. Paul's letter has been re-shaping the purpose of the church, reminding what it means to live as Christian. Return the spreading the Gospel, living holy lives by expelling the blatantly immoral, and guarding yourselves from not only big sins, but from small things such as law suits. Yield to one another instead. This also applies to marriage, where the husband yields to his wife and she yields to her husband, even if the spouse is unbeliever.

This morning, Paul has us considering one another as far as our freedoms go. For the Corinthians, some knew that food offered to idols was nothing, that there was no sin in eating it. For others, having come from such a sin as idolatry, they needed a clean break.

1. Use our Knowledge with wisdom

- a. They expected others to instantly know, showing an arrogance, tearing down the new or weaker believer.
- b. Knowledge for its sake, can tear down. Afraid of dark? Nothing is there. Child is still scared. We have not helped throwing child into dark room. But if we take the time to show, to teach...

2. by allowing God's love to shine through

- a. This is how we use wisdom, when we teach, not out of arrogance, but from the stand point of God's love.
- b. Taking time to disciple others, showing why exercising freedoms is ok.

3. so we can help the weaker brother.

- a. Nothing wrong with being weaker. (don't stay this way.) comes from being new, or lack of learning opportunities.
- b. For the former idolater, seeing another brother exercising his freedom can cause him to stumble back to the old sins.

Paul's conclusion is that though: if what he does, eat the idol meat, causes someone to stumble, then he won't do it. We don't cling to freedoms because of what we know. We instead cling to showing God's love, to build one another up.

Example of Drinking – Could be cultural, how you were brought up. But if you know it harms another, the abstain until you can help the weaker grow.

Example of Lottery Ticket – a scratcher here or there, perhaps it means nothing, but to someone else, it's gateway to the old struggles. So it is better to abstain. Follow Matthew 18, go to your brother, be reconciled. (RECAP OUTLINE)