

Study 13. 1 Cor 8:1-13

Big idea: knowledge is no good if it destroys a brother or sister

Observation and interpretation

Read verses 1-3

- Is there anything wrong with knowledge?
- What is “food sacrificed to idols”?

Read verses 4-8

- What do Paul and his audience know about idols?
- What do the other people (“weaker brothers”) think about idols?
- Why is their conscience “defiled” if they eat food they think is sacrificed to idols?

Read verses 9-13

- Why might it be sinful to eat food sacrificed to an idol, even though we know that idols are meaningless?

Application / Implications

Like Corinth, Sydney is a multicultural society with lots of beliefs. Are there any things in our life you can think of which is similar to “food sacrificed to idols”?

In what other ways can knowledge of our freedom actually destroy rather than build up another brother or sister?

“I believe alcohol is evil, and I’m the weaker brother, so you should stop drinking alcohol.” How would you respond to this statement?

Prayer ideas

- Pray for those who are captive to idols (of all sorts) in our world.
- Pray that our knowledge would seek to build up and not destroy.