

1 Corinthians 8:1 – 13

New American Standard Version

1 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that
2 we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but
3 love edifies. 2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything,
4 he has not yet known as he ought to know; 3 but if anyone
5 loves God, he is known by Him. 4 Therefore concerning the
6 eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no
7 such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God
8 but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in
9 heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many
10 lords, 6 yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from
11 whom are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord,
12 Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through
13 Him. 7 However not all men have this knowledge; but
14 some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat *food* as if
15 it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being
16 weak is defiled. 8 But food will not commend us to God; we
17 are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do
18 eat. 9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not
19 somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if
20 someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's
21 temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be
22 strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? 11 For through
23 your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for
24 whose sake Christ died. 12 And so, by sinning against the
25 brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak,
26 you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food causes my
27 brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will
28 not cause my brother to stumble.

*Use the suggestions on the back page as a starting point for your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.***

Observation (What does it say?):

Read through the complete passage once. Then read again and mark words or ideas or phrases that are repeated.

From those repeated items what are the key subjects for Paul in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How are the key subjects in this passage related to each other?

*What is Paul's main concern in this passage?
What does he seem not to be concerned about?*

Why is there a problem? Why not just say that eating food of idols is right or wrong and expect people to follow that instruction?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

How do we determine what are "disputed issues" in our culture?

What are examples of disputed issues you have encountered (or you are still dealing with)?

How does Paul's concern about causing another to stumble relate to our culture's assumed "right not to be offended?" How sensitive do we need to be? How bold should we be? To other believers? To nonbelievers?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- Why does Paul say “for us there is but one God” (v. 6a)? Is he leaving room for others to have other gods?
- Why does he include the clear distinction between members of the Trinity (v. 6b)? How does that relate to the argument he is making?
- Who are the “all men” who lack the knowledge Paul is describing (v. 7)? Is he talking about humanity in general, or people in the church, or some other group?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain
hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**