

October 22, 2023

## Wisdom in your Freedom 1 Corinthians 8 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 13 Num. 43

### Using This Study

#### 1 EXAMINE His Word

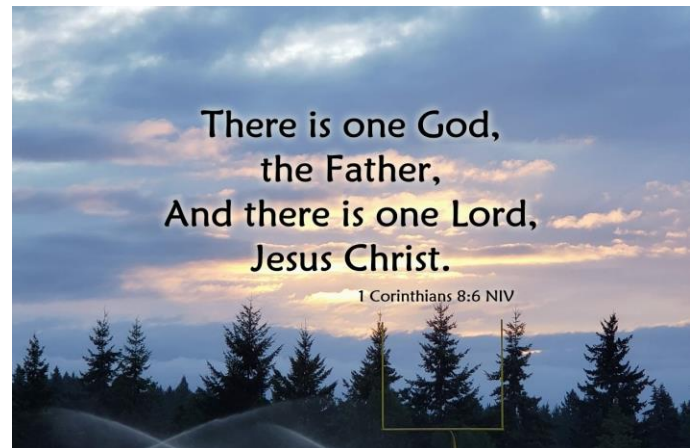
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### 2 EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### 3 EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will be looking at the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians. In this section Paul addresses eating food sacrificed to idols. At first you may think this has little application for us today; we may not be around many foods that are sacrificed to idols. However, there is a very important principle that comes from this passage. What are we willing to do to make sure our fellow believers do not stumble. Join us this week as we investigate how we can love and support our fellow believers while living in the freedom of Christ.



**Take Care with Your Liberty**

**8** Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. <sup>2</sup> If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; <sup>3</sup> but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him.

<sup>7</sup> However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat *food* as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. <sup>8</sup> But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. <sup>9</sup> But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup> For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. <sup>12</sup> And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.

**● EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.**

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

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9.

10.

**2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
What does God MEAN?

1. What does knowledge lead to? Explain how this works.
2. What does love lead to? Explain.
3. What is meant by saying there is no such thing as an idol?
4. Where do the so-called gods and many false gods and lords come from?
5. What does it mean to eat food that has been sacrificed to an idol?
6. Who is at risk if the members of the church in Corinth eat food sacrificed to idols?
7. Why does Paul sometimes avoid food sacrificed to idols?



Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

*Sermon Notes*