

MESSAGE.

Paul teaches the Corinthians that Christian freedom is not just about what we are allowed to do, but about how our choices affect others. While the Corinthians were right that idols are not real, they were wrong to use their freedom without considering love for other believers. Christian maturity is not measured by how many rights we exercise, but by how much love we demonstrate. Because Jesus laid down His rights for us, we gladly lay down ours for others.

ENGAGE.

READ 1 Corinthians 8:1-3 (Knowledge and Love)

- What does Paul mean when he says “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up”?
- Why do you think knowledge without love can lead to pride instead of maturity?
- How does being known by God (v.3) shape the way we view ourselves?

READ 1 Corinthians 8:4-8 (Freedom and Others)

- Why is it important that Paul agrees with their theology before correcting their behavior?
- What are some modern examples of “freedom” that Christians may view differently?
- Why do we tend to ask, “Am I allowed to do this?” instead of “How will this affect others?”

READ 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 (Love Over Liberty)

- What does it mean to be a “stumbling block” to another believer?
- Why is the phrase “the brother for whom Christ died” so important in verse 11?
- Where might God be calling you to lay down a preference or freedom for the good of someone else?

REREAD 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

- Where are you most tempted to insist on your rights instead of choosing love?
- What is one practical way you can use your freedom this week to build someone else up?

