

A GLORIOUS MESS

LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

Community in a Hodge-podge World — 1 Corinthians 8

Brian Berry, Generation Ministries Pastor • November 16 & 18, 2012

1 CORINTHIANS 8

¹ Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

² If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; ³ but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

⁴ 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. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, ⁶ 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.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ 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? ¹¹ For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. ¹² And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.

KNOWING STUFF LEADS US TO MESSY ARROGANCE

KNOWING GOD LEADS US TO GLORIOUS LOVE

THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION IS THIS: HOW WELL DO I KNOW THE GOD WHO KNOWS ME?

ARROGANT	GODLY
I KNOW STUFF, SO I MATTER	I KNOW GOD AND NOT MUCH ELSE MATTERS
MY RIGHTS ARE MY ULTIMATE CONCERN	PEOPLE LIVING FAR FROM GOD CONNECTING WITH HIM IS MY ULTIMATE CONCERN
I CAN DO WHAT I WANT	I MAKE SACRIFICES TO MAKE ROOM FOR ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE

WHEN WE CHOOSE TO BE A COMMUNITY OF LOVE:

- We choose Jesus as our savior and guide
- We make the hard choices to make room for others
- We daily walk in the mess with our eyes on the glory of God

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KNOWING STUFF LEADS US TO _____

KNOWING GOD LEADS US TO _____

THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION IS THIS: _____

ARROGANT	GODLY

WHEN WE CHOOSE TO BE A COMMUNITY OF LOVE:

- We _____ as our savior and guide
- We make the hard choices to _____ for others
- We daily _____ with our eyes on the glory of God

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