

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 8:1-6

Welcome to a new year of the Sermon Study Equipping Class! If you have not already done so, please read the Welcome Letter before beginning your studies this week. (The letter was handed out at the class overview session and is also available online at summitwoodschurch.org/sermonstudy.)

If you have not recently read all of 1 Corinthians straight through, we encourage you to do so as this new study year begins. It only takes one hour and will help you to keep Paul's big picture for the Corinthians in mind as we look at the details more slowly each week.

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

In this week's passage, Paul begins his instructions regarding whether or not the Christians in Corinth should eat food that they knew had previously been offered to idols in the pagan temples. The leftover foods from the various temples often made their way into the marketplace where they were readily available for purchase by anyone doing their regular grocery shopping.

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-6.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains a neighboring clause.

¹Now concerning food offered to idols:
we know that "all of us possess knowledge."
This "knowledge" puffs up,
but love builds up.

²If anyone imagines that he knows something,
he does not yet know as he ought to know.

³But if anyone loves God,
he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols,
we know that "an idol has no real existence,"
and that "there is no God but one."

⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—
as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—

⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father,
from whom are all things
and for whom we exist,
and one Lord, Jesus Christ,
through whom are all things
and through whom we exist.

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The Bigger Picture

1. Who is writing this letter?
2. To whom is he writing?
3. Why is he writing the whole letter in general?
4. Why is he writing this section in particular? (see 7:1)

This Week's Passage

5. In verse 1, what negative thing does Paul say that knowledge can result in?
6. In verse 2, what warning does he give to those who imagine that they have much knowledge?
7. How should this warning protect against or correct arrogance?
8. Is Paul warning against or demeaning all knowledge?
 - a. What words does he use in this passage that help you answer this question? (see verses 1 & 4)

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b. List verses from Paul's other writings that show that he does indeed value knowledge.

9. If Paul is not warning against knowledge itself, then what is he warning against?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-6 again.

10. In verse 3, how does Paul say that one should relate to God?

11. Why do you think he says "is known by God" rather than "knows God"?

12. How does 1 Corinthians 1:21 relate to verses 1-3?

13. How can someone use knowledge in an arrogant and unloving way?

14. How can someone use knowledge in a loving way that builds up?

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15. Where else in 1 Corinthians has Paul already addressed the heart issue of arrogance (especially arrogance that results in unloving behavior)?

16. In verse 4, what knowledge does Paul specifically say that we have?

17. How have we learned this knowledge?

18. Look up the following verses and note how each one teaches us this knowledge about God and idols.

a. 1 Chronicles 16:23-27

b. Isaiah 45:18-22

c. Jeremiah 10:1-16

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-6 again.

19. To what “gods” and “lords” is Paul referring in verse 5?

20. In verse 6, what words does Paul *repeat* in describing both the Father and Jesus?

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21. In verse 6, what *different* words (different prepositions) does Paul use in describing the Father and Jesus?
22. How does his choice of words shape your knowledge about the Father and Jesus? What does this passage tell us about God?
23. What does this passage tell us about mankind?
24. How does this week's paragraph inform the eating of food that had previously been offered to idols? (Paul will give more details regarding his instructions in next week's passage. Think about the question just based on this week's verses. It is okay if your answer is more general rather than more specific.)
25. How should our knowledge about God encourage us to act in loving rather than arrogant ways?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we will rightly understand what is true knowledge, and pray that we will use our knowledge in loving and not arrogant ways, to build up and not to tear down.