

1 November 2020

Knowledge Balanced with Love

(1 Corinthians 8, part 11)



Paul talks about two kinds of Christians:

- Those with _____ - that is based on the Word of God
- Those who _____ - whose conscience is weak

Three important factors:

_____, _____, and then _____

1. The Conscience is _____ from the Holy Spirit
(Romans 2:15, 8:9)
2. Knowledge is to _____ our Conscience (1 Cor. 8:1-2)
3. Love is to _____ (1 Cor. 8:3-6)
4. Be _____ to the Conscience of Others (1 Cor. 8:7-13)

The Bible says of man's conscience some warnings:

- (a) The conscience can be _____ (Titus 1:15)
- (b) The conscience can become _____ (1 Timothy 4:2, Romans 1:28)
- (c) The conscience can give _____ (Acts 26:9)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

"Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. ²And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.

*³But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him. ⁴Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that *there is no other God but one.* ⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), ⁶yet for us *there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.**

⁷However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. ⁹But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? ¹¹And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹²But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."