



CALVARY CHAPEL

Navigating Gray Areas

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1 Corinthians 8:1-3 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. *2* Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. *3* But whoever loves God is known by God.

- Prioritize love before knowledge
- You can be so right that you become wrong
- **3 questions we should ask ourselves**
- 1. What does God’s Word say on this?

1 Corinthians 8:4-6 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all 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 all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

- Live differently but not isolated from the culture around us

1 Corinthians 8:7-8 But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. *8* But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

- 2. Is this best for me?

Romans 2:15 (NLT) They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.

- Be Sensitive to the Conscience of Others

1 Corinthians 8:9-13 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. *10* For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol’s temple, won’t that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? *11* So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. *12* When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. *13* Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

- 3. Is this best for those around me?

Romans 14:13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Romans 14:19-21 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

- Exercise our freedoms to build others up
- **Summary: Should I _____?**
- What does God's Word say on this?
- Is this best for me?
- Is this best for those around me?
- Call **321.574.6970** if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.