

Love + Liberty

MESSAGE: DAN GILLETTE

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: DECEMBER 05, 2021

REVIEW & USE 1 Corinthians 8-11:1

As we learn, our goal must be to grow in wisdom.

Proverbs 2:6 "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;"

As we gain wisdom, our goal must be to grow in love.

1Cor. 8:1 "Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds"

1Tim. 1:5 "The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

Knowledge – to recognize, acknowledge, to perceive or become aware of something.

Understanding – skillful discerning of facts, to separate and distinguish ideas or concepts/make appropriate connections, ideas or concepts.

Wisdom – the proper application of knowledge and understanding.

Mapping Your "Personal Corinth"

TEMPLES: your participation risks polluting the gospel or stumbling weaker siblings	MARKETS: no risk of polluting or confusing the gospel
HOUSES: opportunities to forego your liberty in order to "trade up"	REUNIONS: opportunities to forego liberty in order to love Christian siblings

Seven Questions to Consider and Two Arenas to Evaluate (1 Corinthians 8-10:7): Rate Yourself From 1-10 & Elaborate

The Internal Arena

1. **Do I treasure being known by my Heavenly Father over displays of knowledge? (See 1 Cor. 8:6)**
1 Cor. 8:2 "If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. **3** But if anyone loves God, he is **known by God.**"

2. **Are my words, actions, and values a reflection of my loving connection with Jesus? (See 1Cor.10:16)**
1 Cor. 8:11 "And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died"
3. **Am I willing to surrender my freedom or adapt my preferences to create clear paths to the gospel?**
1 Cor. 9:12b "...we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ."
1 Cor. 9: 23 "I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings."
4. **Do I exercise self-control with an eternal reward in view?**
1 Cor. 9: 25 "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable."

The External Arena

5. **What specific actions can I take to show my genuine concern for my neighbor's well-being?**
1 Cor. 10:24 "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor."
6. **In what ways can my life be a more truthful picture of God's character?**
1 Cor. 10:31 "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
7. **How am I responding to the invitation to lead others—by my example—to follow Christ?**
1 Cor. 11:1 "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

Reflection & Discussion

1. **Share** your answers to one of the seven growth areas above. How will you make that area a focus this Christmas season?
2. **Map out** your "personal Corinth." Based on the seven growth questions, be clear in your mind how you will engage (or not engage) in each setting. How will you use the "drivers" in the related passages from 1 Cor. 8-10 as an encouragement?
3. **Assess your progress.** Do you notice particular areas of difficulty? What truth has been helpful in addressing them?
4. **Share your progress!** Tell a family member or Christian sister or brother what you're learning, giving thanks to the Father for your riches in Christ.

SONGS

"GOD SO LOVED" - Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, and Scott Cash

"HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING" - Charles Wesley, George Whitefield

"FOREVER" - B Johnson, C Black Gifford, G Wilson, J Johnson, J Taylor, K Jobe

"OH PRAISE THE NAME" - Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson, and Benjamin Hastings

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$38,193.46

WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,670,270.61

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,693,056.00