

WHAT ABOUT EATING MEAT THAT HAS BEEN SACRIFICED TO AN IDOL?

I COR. 8:1-13

Introduction:

- A. The Roman Empire had a state-supported religion.
 - 1. Paganism.
 - 2. A system of animal sacrifices to please the gods.

- B. Should a Christian enter a temple and eat meat as an act of courtesy or good will?
 - 1. Some said yes, "we know" the truth.
 - 2. Some said no, "it is compromise."

I. KNOWLEDGE MUST BE TEMPERED WITH LOVE.

- A. v1-3.
 - 1. Knowledge can make one arrogant; love edifies.

- B. True knowledge admits its limitations.
 - 1. If a man loves God, God knows him.

II. WE POSSESS LIBERATING KNOWLEDGE. v4-6

- A. The things we know about idols. v4
 - 1. "we know that an idol is nothing in the world."
 - 2. "there is none other god but one."

- B. The Pagan belief. v5
 - 1. "for though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth."
 - 2. (as there be gods many, and lords many).

- C. To us there is but one God. v6.

III. EVERYONE DOES NOT HAVE THIS KNOWLEDGE.

- A. v7,8.

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1. "howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge."
 2. Some can't forget their training.
- B. Some eat with a conscious fear of the idol.
1. Their conscience is not easy, so they have guilt.
- C. Eating meat or not eating meat means zero.
1. v8.

IV. THE ABUSE OF KNOWLEDGE. V9-11

- A. v9, But be careful that your freedom to eat meat does not in any way hinder anyone whose faith is weak.
- B. v10, For if any man sees you reclining at table in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged to violate his conscience?
- C. v11, And this over-sensitive brother is ruined by your enlightened mind.

V. THE PRINCIPLES WE MUST KNOW. V12-13

- A. Principle number one. v12
1. "By sinning against this over-scrupulous brother and injuring their doubtful conscience, ye sin against Christ."
- B. Principle number two. v13
1. So if eating meat offered to idols is going to make my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again. I don't want to give him a reason to sin.

