

# What Really Matters?

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Week of June 25, 2023

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## BELONG

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**Ask this Ice Breaker Question:** What is the weirdest food you have ever attempted to eat? Was it on a mission trip? A trip to another country? To your mother-in-law's house?

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## BELIEVE

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**Have someone in your group read aloud: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

**Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:**

- 1. Paul makes a distinction between two types of application of knowledge.**
  - a. Knowledge applied to the love of others will result in building up others.**
  - b. Knowledge applied to the love of self will result in puffing up the selfish ego.**

***Have you seen either of these types of application play out in your own life or in the life of your friends?***

Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):

- *Examples might consist of a time when fear of insecurity led to an angry outburst at a loved one.*
- *Or, a time might be when a group of people included a new person in community, even while it was difficult to do so.*

- 2. This question takes some creative thinking and role playing: The Corinthian Church likely contained four kinds of groups of people:**
  - a. Group A knows that there are no other gods beside YHWH and chooses to eat food sacrificed to idols.**
  - b. Group B knows that there are no other gods beside YHWH and chooses NOT to eat food sacrificed to idols.**
  - c. Group C does not know that there are no other gods beside YHWH and chooses to eat food sacrificed to idols.**
  - d. Group D does not know that there are no other gods beside YHWH and chooses NOT to eat food sacrificed to idols.**



**If your church contained these four groups of people, how would you recommend that each group interact with each other at a shared meal together?**

Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):

- *Groups A and B might have a dinner with an amended menu, but with the freedom to agree to disagree on dinners with idol food.*
- *Groups A and C might enjoy a menu of idol food while discussing how Jesus as the true God of the universe.*
- *Groups A and D might have dinner with an amended menu, and the conversation would center on why Jesus is the true God.*
- *Groups B and C might not share a meal together, but would have a conversation about Jesus over coffee.*
- *Groups B and D might share a meal together of non-idol food and have a conversation about the freedom we have in Christ.*
- *Groups C and D are not Christians yet. So they likely would fight about superstition and may leave the conversation with hurt feelings.*

**3. On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being "as exhausted as you are after serving back to back at VBS and youth camp" and with 1 being "ready to run a Disney marathon," how exhausted are you from thinking through the previous exercise in question 2? Why do you suppose that thinking through these types of practical questions can be so draining?**

**4. If I give you the topics of *alcohol, tattoos, movies and music, and clothing*, which topic is most like the issue of "food sacrificed to idols" in your church experience or in your up-bringing with parents and in school?**

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**BECOME:**

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**5. Which topics in our society do you suspect will become the "food idols" topics in the church moving forward? And, how might you lead and think differently in light of 1 Corinthians 8?**

**Close by praying together.**