

**"LIBERTY CARRIES A PRICE TAG
= RESPONSIBILITY"
1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

IBC - Keeseville NY
Sun Feb 21st, 2010

Introduction: It is interesting to note that the clearly immoral behaviour of chapter 5 was not only tolerated but boasted about within the church in Corinth, and yet we are seeing that clearly amoral behaviour of chapter 8 is being prohibited by some within the fellowship. As in Paul's day, the church today continues to be polarized on the issue of permissiveness verses legalism. The biblical balance Paul sets forth in chapter 8 of discerning when to live by the Law of Liberty or the Law of Love always proves far more difficult to maintain than either of the extremes. True discernment always requires knowledge of God's Word coupled with the edifying principle of agape love under the filling of God the Holy Spirit. In a day and age when everyone is demanding "their rights" we as followers of Jesus Christ have no right to demand the use of our "liberty in Christ" if that liberty in turn proves hazardous to other believers "for whom Christ died".

I. THE PRINCIPLE ENUNCIATED - 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

II. THE PROBLEM EXPLAINED - 1 Corinthians 8:4-8

CONSCIENCE - συνείδησις - SUNEIDESIS = with knowledge

SUN = with, or - along with ... EIDESIS = to know - knowledge

Because of a lack of knowledge many believers in Corinth had a WEAK conscience. Their conscience was weak because they did not have GOD'S view point concerning the issue at hand (eating meat offered to idols). Because of the lack of BIBLICAL truth their conscience was defiled. Human view point alone DEFILES the conscience. Biblical Truth CLEANSSES the conscience.

The greatest manifestation of a weak conscience is a GUILT complex...Hal Lindsey - The Guilt Trip

**Some thoughts on God's commendation – or approval
GOD APPROVES OF WHAT GOD DOES**

1. God's approval begins at SALVATION – Propitiation
God the Father PLANNED it – God the Son EXECUTED it
God approves of what God does
2. God's approval in the Christian's LIFE - Sanctification
God the Father PLANNED it – God the Holy Spirit EXECUTES it
God approves of what God does
3. God's approval in relation to the WORD OF GOD – Inspiration
God the Father PLANNED it – God the Holy Spirit WROTE it
God approves of what God does
4. God's approval in relation to ETERNITY - Perfection
God PLANNED it – God EXECUTES it
God approves of what God does

If there was any work of man in eternity – it would never last .

God approves & commends that which God does – His work alone is worthy of Himself

III. THE _____ EXAMINED - 1 Corinthians 8:9-13

KNOWLEDGE AND LIBERTY TO BE GOVERNED BY _____

"...if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat"

CONCLUSION: