

# God's people, then and now

## Part 2

### 1 Corinthians 8: Concerning food sacrificed to idols

<sup>8</sup> Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. <sup>2</sup> Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. <sup>3</sup> But whoever loves God is known by God.

<sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

<sup>9</sup> Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> 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? <sup>11</sup> So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup> When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> 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.

1. What is the comparison Paul draw here between love and Knowledge? V1
2. Do you think this is true? (V1) Can you think of any examples?
3. What might be a modern day comparison? V4  
What is our food sacrificed to idol? V4-6
4. Give an example of something we are "free in Christ" to do, but not wise? V7
5. What situation might make something we are free to do not wise? (eg: drinking in front of an alcoholic)
6. What does Paul mean by this? V8
7. What is the core principle Paul is teaching us here? V9
8. What does Paul mean by "Destroyed by your knowledge"? V11
9. What is the value system Paul operates under? V13
10. What might be an example of "meat" that we might need to give up?