

Study of 1 Corinthians 8

by Marc Gravelle

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1 Corinthians 8:1-13

1 Now as touching things offered unto idols, we KNOW that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. 2 And if any man thinks, that he knows any thing, he knows nothing yet, as he ought to know. 3 But if any man loves Elohiym, the same is known of Him. 4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we KNOW that an idol is NOTHING in the world, and that there is no other Elohiym, BUT ONE. 5 For though there are many that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there are gods many, and lords many,) 6 But to us there is but One Elohiym, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and One Messiah, Yeshua Messiah, by whom are all things made, and we, by Him.

In this chapter of Corinthians, Paul speaks of meat sacrificed to idols. He makes it quite clear that any and **ALL** man made idols **ARE NOTHING**, they have no power, for they are **ALL** inanimate objects that have absolutely **NO LIFE NOR ANY VALUE TO THEM**, and therefore we must conclude as Paul did, and that is that whatever is sacrificed to any of these man made idols, or imaginary gods, **IS** sacrificed **TO NOTHING, AND THEREFORE IT CANNOT HARM YOU**, which in turn means that **IT IS** permitted to eat it, as long as **IT IS** a kosher animal that has been slaughtered according to Yahweh's Word, His Torah of Life.

Paul tells us that although there are many man made gods and lords in this world of ours, there **IS ONLY ONE** Yahweh, One Creator of all things, and whatever Yahweh has blessed, **THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO MAN, THAT CAN CURSE IT**, even though that man offers the animal as a sacrifice to his man made inanimate idols, his man made imaginary gods. However Paul has a caveat attached to this freedom of eating what has been sacrificed to idols, sacrificed to some man made imaginary god, a warning to all that are strong in their belief, their faith in Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah, all that know and are convinced that an idol is **NOTHING**, and that warning **IS** that the believer who is indeed strong in his belief, his faith and in his understanding of the Scriptures, **IS NOT** an island unto himself. That strong believer, probably has many people watching him, and learning from him, and, **IF** these other believers are **NOT** as strong in their understanding and or belief in the Scripture, Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, as the strong believer **IS**, and they see the strong believer, eating meat that has been sacrificed to idols, **IT CAN**, and more than likely would, make that person that is watching him, **SIN**, in that he, the weak brother believing that there is something wrong in eating meat sacrificed to idols **WILL EAT IT ANYWAYS, BECAUSE** he sees his stronger brother partaking of what he believes is forbidden meat and therefore he will **SIN, BECAUSE** of what his stronger brother has done.

Therefore, Paul says that **ALL** believers who have a very good understanding of Scripture should **NOT** eat meat that has been sacrificed to idols by the pagans, but that rather, the brother who is strong in his belief, should abstain from eating that kind of meat, **BECAUSE** it might cause a weaker brother to **SIN**. The principal that is being demonstrated here, is that **WE ARE INDEED OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER** and that **IT IS** better for the strong believer to suffer loss, to do without that

kind of meat, **THAN** to potentially have a brother in the faith **COMMIT SIN, BECAUSE** of his lawful action. The words that Paul uses are *verse 7 Howbeit there is **NOT** in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and **THEIR CONSCIENCE BEING WEAK IS DEFILED.***

Paul goes on to say that **IT IS NOT** what we eat that commends us to Elohim, **BUT IT IS** the love that we have for each other, that commends us to Elohim. Paul cautions those that are strong in their belief, their faith and their understanding of Scripture, that they are to beware that the freedom or liberty they have because of their deep understanding of Scripture, **DOES NOT** become a stumbling block to the people around them that are weak in their belief, their faith. Listen to the stern warning that Paul gives to those that are strong believers with a good knowledge of the freedom that we have in and through the Scriptures;

Paul says, *verse 7 Howbeit there is **NOT** in every man, that knowledge: for some, with conscience of the idol unto this hour, eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. 8 But it is **NOT** meat that commends us to Elohiym: for neither are we the better, we choose to eat this kind of meat, and neither are we better, or worse off, if we do **NOT** eat that kind of meat. 9 For **IF** any man sees you, who has **knowledge and understanding of Scripture**, sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall **NOT** the conscience of him which **IS WEAK, BE EMBOLDENED TO EAT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE OFFERED TO IDOLS**; 11 And through **YOUR KNOWLEDGE, SHALL THE WEAK BROTHER PERISH, FOR WHOM MESSIAH DIED?***

It is imperative that we **ALL** understand, that according to Paul, there are very serious consequences for a person who is weak in his belief and understanding of Scripture, weak in his faith, who chooses to follow the example of someone who is supposedly strong in his **BELIEF, his FAITH**, and eating what the weak brother believes is **FORBIDDEN FOOD BECAUSE IT WAS** sacrificed to idols, thereby causing that weaker brother to **SIN**, and those consequences are, that **THE BROTHER, WHO IS WEAK IN THE FAITH, WILL PERISH**. Therefore Paul's conclusion is that **IT IS** better for the brother who is stronger in his understanding and belief in the authority of the Scriptures, to do without that kind of **MEAT**, rather than, potentially cause a weaker brother to **PERISH** and be lost for eternity.

The final conclusion is one that Paul has learned from Messiah, the Living Word of the Father, the Living Torah made flesh, and that **IS, THEY WILL KNOW US BY OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER**. If you are blessed with a strong understanding and belief in the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of Yahweh, His Torah of **LIFE** called the Scriptures, **THEN** you can rest assured that **IT IS** because Yahweh Himself has seen **TO IT, THAT YOU** have that knowledge, we have to understand that it is Yahweh that gives US that knowledge, and He does so in order that we will help other people attain that same goal, which **IS THE FREEDOM THAT IS FOUND IN WILLINGLY AND LOVINGLY OBEYING THE WORD, THE TORAH OF ELOHIM, John 8:32 And you shall know the TRUTH, and the TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE**. That goal, of being **FREE**, can only be achieved **IF** we can learn to love our neighbour as ourselves, and therefore, our heart's desire **SHOULD BE**, that we want the very best for these weaker brothers and sisters, and the best that anyone can ever achieve **IS** acquiring the knowledge of the absolute freedom found in the Word of our heavenly Father, His Torah of Life.

*Verse 12 But when you Sin so, against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you are actually sinning against Messiah. 13 Therefore, **IF MEAT THAT IS SACRIFICED TO IDOLS, MAKES** my brother to offend, **I WILL EAT NO FLESH WHILE THE WORLD STANDS**, lest I make my brother to offend.*

We are admonished in the Scriptures to follow Messiah, to walk as He walked, in total surrendered loving obedience to our heavenly Father and to love **ALL** of His creation, and especially man, who was created in the image of our heavenly Father. We are to learn to walk in total love for our fellow human being and mimic Messiah, and His Torah obedient Life, as we are Commanded to do in *1John 2:6 He that says he abides in Messiah ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.*

Let us take a moment and pray that our heavenly Father would give us the strength, wisdom and understanding that is needed to truly surrender our wills to His at all times, so that the love we have for Him will be evident in the way that we treat our brothers and sisters on a daily basis. Amein

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein!