

**Mark 9:38 (NKJV)**

<sup>38</sup> Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us."

**INTRODUCTION**

Pastor Barry's March 20, 2016 message was both very powerful and very convicting. It is appropriate for us to jump to 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 8:1-6 in our line of study because this chapter naturally follows that message. Just as there is a lack of agreement among Christians today concerning issues not directly mentioned in scriptures, the Corinthians were struggling with one another over a "gray area" issue concerning consuming meat offered to idols. Perhaps we'll be able to apply this passage and following to our own lives to release us from chains applied by previously learned "religious dogma", or if need be, make us more careful with our freedom in Christ.

**1 Corinthians 8:1-6 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

<sup>2</sup> And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.

<sup>3</sup> But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.

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

<sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

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Vs. 1 & 2 - Paul points out some common ground between Christians and that is "We know that we all have knowledge." The issue is not having knowledge. The issue is how we use our knowledge. Do we use our knowledge in arrogance to impress others or do we use our knowledge to edify others in love? Some use scripture in abstract ways to justify personal actions and at the same time disregard the feelings of others who haven't come to the same conclusion. As some would say, "He or she knows just enough to be dangerous!"

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Vs. 3 & 4 – If someone truly loves god, God knows the person by name! Loving God also drives the person to get to know God better. Loving god is also the first part of the "greatest commandment", which is that you love God with all your heart, soul and mind. Then, loving your neighbor as yourself will shortly follow. We can't help know that there is only one true God and there is no other god besides Him. Therefore "What's the Point" in worrying about meat offered to a non-existent being?

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<sup>6</sup> *yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.*

Vs. 5 & 6 – We know that there are many representations of “gods” in the world (Buddah, images of Mary, Peter, John, sports figures, entertainers, scholars, preachers, presidents, pastors and potentates) yet we know there is only one true God and one true Lord in whom we live, move and have our being.

### **Conclusion**

Today, we’re not concerned with meat offered to idols, but it may be something else such as watching fantasy movies about magic like “Harry Potter”. Some could theologially prove it’s not right to view such movies, but the emphasis on being right isn’t as important as being sensitive to others’ lack of concern. In fact, we can sometimes end up acting as if all issues are equally clear-cut or equally important when we know they are not. One way we can avoid needless heated discussion about such things is to talk about common ground which is our commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.