

**1 Corinthians 10:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

**INTRODUCTION**

In 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 8:7-13 Paul continues his instruction on how Christians ought to conduct ourselves under the freedom that Christ awarded us by virtue of His death and resurrection. Many Christians today are very bold in their freedom in Christ, but to what end? Does their freedom, which wasn't earned, compel them to be holy in God's sight? Does it matter to them if their walk causes other Christians unsubstantiated concern? Does their freedom in Christ actually cause another brother or sister to commit a sin that they otherwise would not have committed? These next few verses should answer these questions and dispel any misconceptions about Christian conduct in the sight of God and in the sight of fellow Christians.

**1 Corinthians 8:7-13 (NKJV)**

- <sup>7</sup> However, *there is* not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat *it* as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.
- <sup>8</sup> But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.
- <sup>9</sup> But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.
- <sup>10</sup> For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?
- <sup>11</sup> And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?
- <sup>12</sup> But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.
- <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is telling us that there are Corinthians who do not have the knowledge that there is only the One and true God. These young Christians' background is not of the Jewish faith but of a polytheistic faith. They haven't been able to shake the idea of many gods controlling lives and anyone who eats the meat offered to these idols are in the sin of idolatry. Paul goes on to say that no food, even food offered to idols, has any effect on our personal relationship with the Most High.

Compare this event to a person who has just come out of the Wiccan religion and was invited to or sees you entering a theater showing a Harry Potter marathon. Or perhaps a newly converted Muslim or Jew is offered pork at a Christian's back yard barbeque. Should a freshly healed alcoholic be offered non-alcoholic beer? Should a Christian participate in Las Vegas type gambling or Lottery ticket purchases knowing there are gambling addictions?

We, as blood bought Christians, should be aware of the damage that can be done to a young brother or sister in Christ if we participate in "sketchy" activity. If we do something that causes one of these to fall, we have sinned against Christ. So, if there is a possibility of this happening because of some otherwise inconsequential activity, we should refrain from it.