Questions -> Food Offered to Idols

Instructions Concerning Christian Freedom
Privileges and Responsibilities

(8:1-13) Food to idols
(9:1-18) Paul's example
(9:19-27) Paul's restraint
(10:1-13) Israel failures
(10:14-22) Flee idolatry
(10:23-11:1) God's Glory
Compare to Rom 14:1-15:7

Knowledge of "Idols"

*An idol made of wood, stone, or precious metals is NOTHING! **-Acts 17:29**

*The pagans might recognize a pantheon of "gods" and "lords" (**5**) **-Ga 4:8; 1Co 10:20**

*Christians know there is only ONE GOD (**4**) **-Dt 6:4; 1Ki 18:39; Isa 45:5**

*In contrast to the "gods" and "lords", we have One God (Father) and One Lord (Son) through whom all things exist, and whom and for we exist **-Jn 1:1-3; Col 1:16; 2:9; Heb 1:1-2**

Take Care (Be Careful)
Applying Agape Love to Knowledge

-Don't let your knowledge (freedom) become a "stumbling block to the weak" (**9**) ***-1Co 13; Rom 14:13, 20-21; Phil 2:1-4***

Now Concerning >> 7:1, 25 (Next Question)

1 ***Now concerning*** **food offered to idols**: we know that "***all of us possess knowledge***." This "***knowledge***" **puffs up**, but **love builds up**. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, ***he does not yet know as he ought to*** know. 3 **But** if anyone ***loves*** **God**, he is ***known by*** **God**.

Here is the Knowledge (An Idol is NOTHING)

4 **Therefore** as to the ***eating*** of **food offered to idols**, ***we know*** that "***an idol has no real existence***," and that "***there is no God but one***." 5 **For** although there may be ***so-called gods*** in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"— 6 **yet** for us there is **one God**, **the Father**, ***from whom are all things*** and ***for whom we exist***, and **one Lord**, **Jesus Christ**, ***through whom are all things*** and ***through whom we exist***.

Knowledge through the Lens of Love ●-->

7 **However**, ***not all possess this knowledge***. But some, through former association with idols, eat **food as really offered to an idol**, and their ***conscience***, being weak, ***is defiled***. 8 ***Food will not commend us to God***. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 **But** ***take care*** that this right of yours does not somehow become a ***stumbling block to the weak***.

Consequences of Knowledge WITHOUT Love

10 **For** if anyone sees ***you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple***, will he not be ***encouraged***, if his ***conscience is weak***, to ***eat*** **food offered to idols**? 11 And so by your knowledge ***this weak person is destroyed***, the ***brother for whom Christ died***. 12 **Thus** ***sinning against your brothers*** and ***wounding their conscience*** when it is weak, ***you sin against*** **Christ**. 13 **Therefore**, ***if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat***, lest I make my brother stumble.

Food (Things) offered to idols (1, 4, 7, 10)

*Translation of a single Greek word: **εἰδωλόθυτος**

*Idolatry and pagan sacrifices permeated all levels of society.

*Meat offered to idols was typically divided into three portions:

(1) Burned up

(2) Given > priest

(3) Given > worshiper

*If the priest did not use their portion, it was taken to the market ***-See also Acts 15:20***

Possess Knowledge

*Possibly something said by the Corinthians, maybe in their letter (see **7:1; 6:12-13**)

*Paul is emphasizing that knowledge *alone* puffs up when not accompanied by love

*Agape love is the essential ingredient in putting knowledge in the appropriate context

Conscience is Defiled

Rom 14:5, 14, 22-23

(**14**) ...nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

(**23**) But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

-1Ti 1:19; Titus 1:15

Guidelines for Making Godly Decisions

	Key Question	Relevant Verses	Comments
1	**Has God spoken regarding this matter?**	John 14:15, 21-22	Does the Bible provide specific instruction surrounding this subject?
	What if this is regarding an area where God has given us liberty or has not spoken?		
2	**Will it violate my conscience?**	Rom 14:5, 14, 22-23; 1Co 8:7	Am I confident that what I am doing is acceptable in the sight of God?
3	**Will it bring honor to the Lord?**	Rom 14:6-9	Does this decision provide an opportunity to distinguish myself from the world?
4	**Could it cause a brother to stumble?**	Rom 14:13, 20-21; 1Cor 8:7-13	Could my actions cause a brother or sister to violate their conscience?
5	**Could it grieve a brother in Christ?**	Rom 14:15-19	Could this decision damage my reputation among brothers and sisters in Christ? In the world?

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Compare To

Romans 14:1–15:7 (ESV)

1 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11 for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

13 Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. 14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. 15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. 16 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

20 Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. 21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. 22 The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. 23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." 4 For whatever was written in former days was written for

our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. [5] May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, [6] that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. [7] Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Food Offered to Idols

1494. **εἰδωλόθυτος eidōlothutos**; from *1497* and *2380; sacrificed to idols*:—sacrificed to an idol(1), sacrificed to idols(1), thing sacrificed(1), thing sacrificed to idols(1), things sacrificed(6), things sacrificed to idols(6).[1]

1627 εἰδωλεῖον (*eidōleion*), ου (*ou*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ Str 1493; TDNT 2.379—LN 7.19 **temple of an idol** (1Co 8:10+)

εἰδωλόθυτον (*eidōlothyton*), ου (*ou*), τό (*to*): n.neu. [served by 1628]; ≡ Str 1494—LN 5.15 **sacrificial meat**, food offered to pagan idols (Ac 15:29; 21:25; 1Co 8:1, 4, 7, 10; 10:19; Rev 2:14, 20+; 1Co 10:28 v.r. NA26)

1628 εἰδωλόθυτος (*eidōlothytos*), ον (*on*): adj.; ≡ Str 1494; TDNT 2.378—pertaining to **what is sacrificed to idols**; see εἰδωλόθυτον (*eidōlothyton*), ου (*ou*), τό (*to*), just above[2]

Acts 15:20 (ESV)
[20] but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood.

1 Corinthians 6:12–13 (ESV)
[12] "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. [13] "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 7:1 (ESV)
[1] Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."

[1] Thomas, R. L. (1998). In *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Foundation Publications, Inc.
[2] Swanson, J. (1997). In *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Knowledge of "Idols"

Acts 17:29 (ESV)
29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

Galatians 4:8 (ESV)
8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.

1 Corinthians 10:20 (ESV)
20 No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (ESV)
4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

1 Kings 18:39 (ESV)
39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God."

Isaiah 45:5 (ESV)
5 I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,

John 1:1–3 (ESV)
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Colossians 1:16 (ESV)
16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Colossians 2:9 (ESV)
9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

Hebrews 1:1–2 (ESV)
1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Take Care (Be Careful)

Philippians 2:1–4 (ESV)
[1] So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, [2] complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Conscience is Defiled

Romans 14:5 (ESV)
[5] One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

Romans 14:14 (ESV)
[14] I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Romans 14:22–23 (ESV)
[22] The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. [23] But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

1 Timothy 1:19 (ESV)
[19] holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,

Titus 1:15 (ESV)
[15] To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.

Guidelines for Making Godly Decisions

1. **Has God spoken regarding this matter? (John 14:15, 21-24)** – Does the Bible provide specific instruction surrounding this subject?

   John 14:15 (ESV)
   [15] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

   John 14:21–24 (ESV)
   [21] Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest

myself to him." [22] Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" [23] Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. [24] Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

What if this is regarding an area where God has given us liberty or has not spoken?

2. **Will it violate my conscience? (Rom 14:5, 14, 22-23)** – Am I confident that what I am doing is acceptable in the sight of God?

Romans 14:5 (ESV)
[5] One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

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3. **Will it bring honor to the Lord? (Rom 14:6-9; 1Co 10:31; Col 3:17)** – Does this decision provide an opportunity to distinguish myself from the world?

Romans 14:6–9 (ESV)
[6] The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. [7] For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. [8] For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. [9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)
[31] So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 (ESV)
[17] And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

4. **Could it cause a brother to stumble? (Rom 14:13, 20-21; I Cor 8:7-13)** – Could my actions cause a brother or sister to violate their conscience?

Romans 14:13 (ESV)
13 Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

Romans 14:20–21 (ESV)
20 Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. 21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

1 Corinthians 8:7–13 (ESV)
7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

5. **Could it grieve a brother in Christ? (Rom 14:15-19)** – Could this decision damage my reputation among brothers and sisters in Christ? In the world?

Romans 14:15–19 (ESV)
15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. 16 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.