

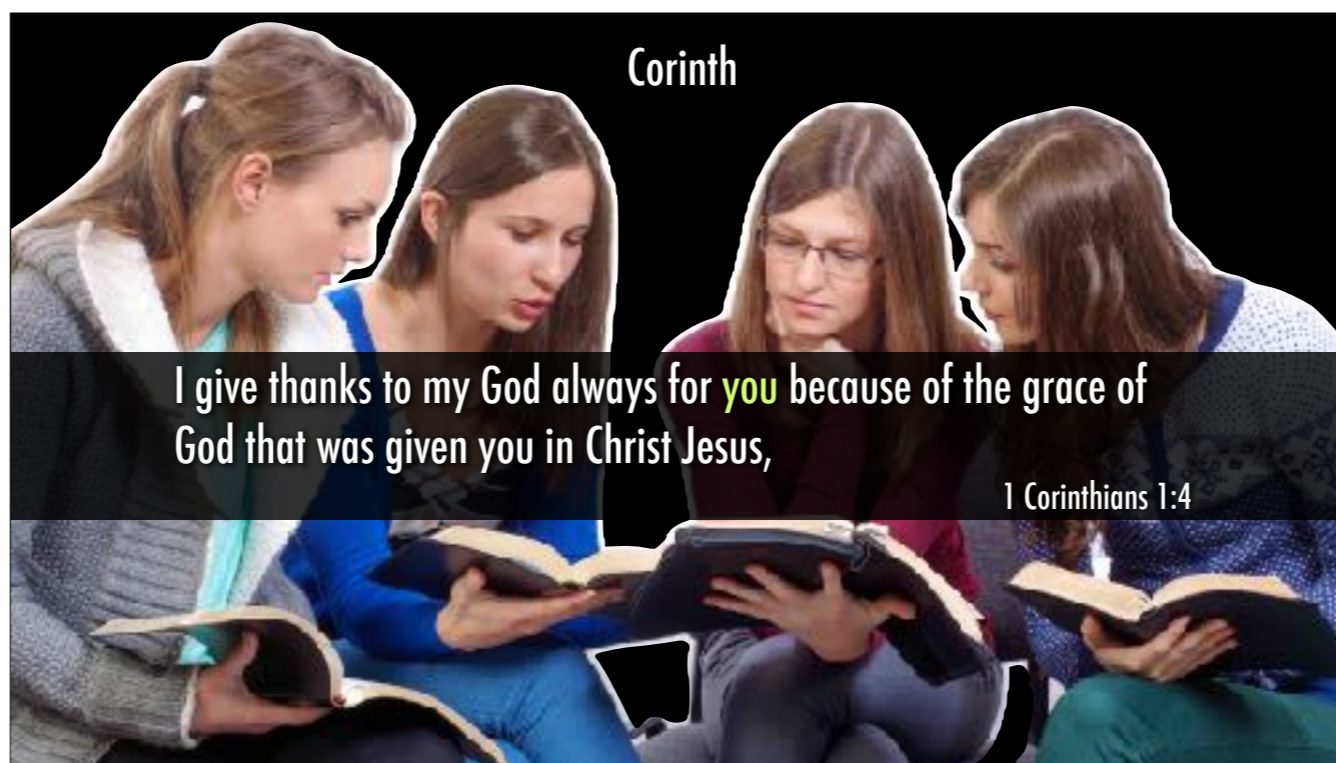


A Servant to All

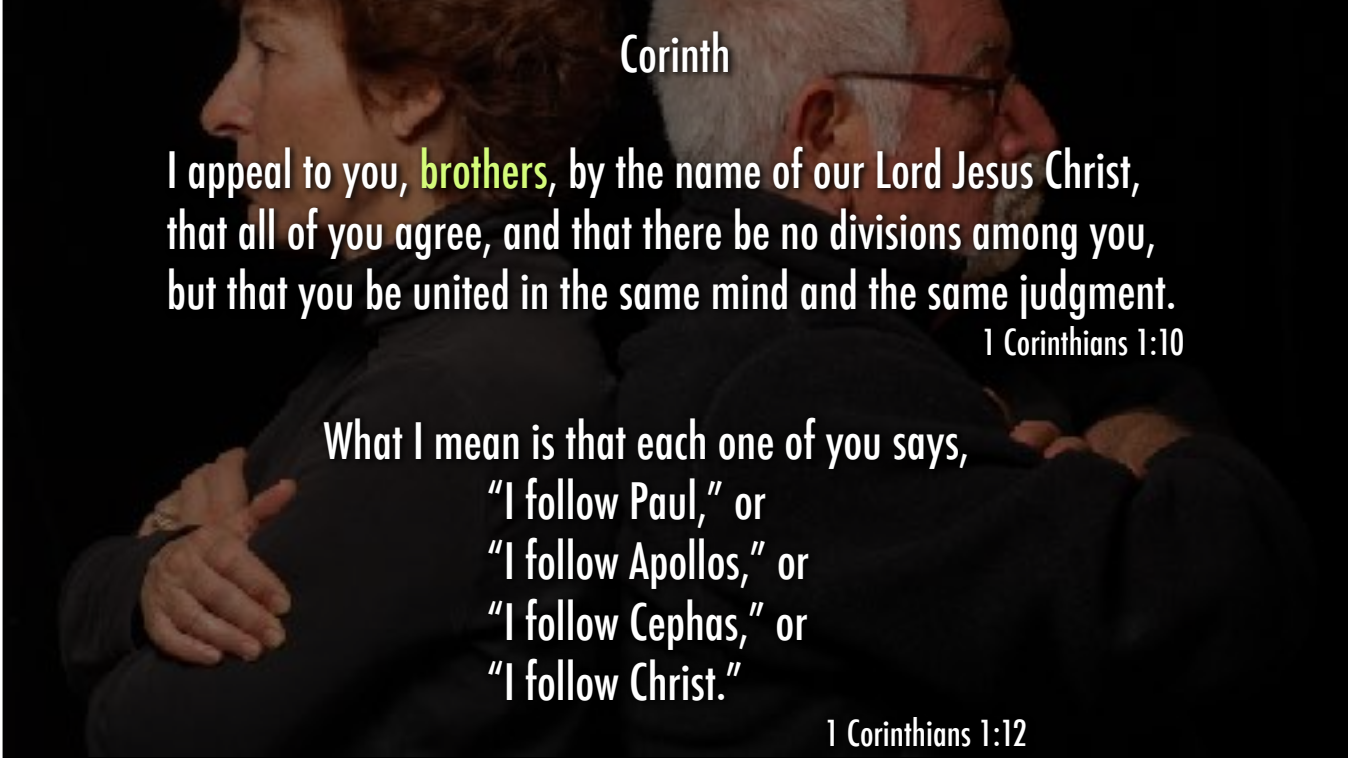
1 Corinthians 9:19



- 1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.



- 1 Corinthians 1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,
 - “You” is plural
- In this brief letter Paul calls them “brothers” (that is, brothers and sisters, brethren, siblings): 36 times.
- Three times “my brothers” (emphasized relationship)
- In spite what what I’m about to spend most of the lesson talking about, Paul sees these saints as a group and as his siblings.
 - And we need to keep that base in mind ... for them and for us.



Corinth

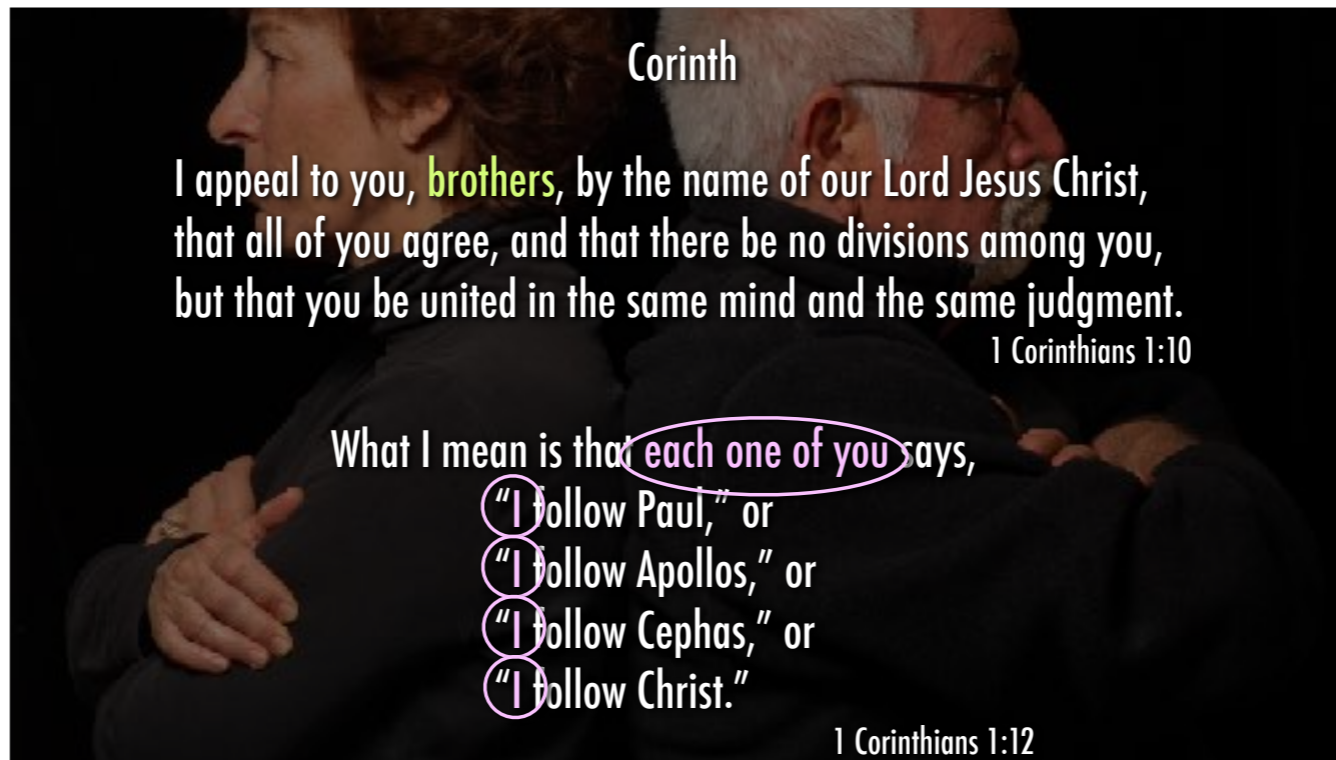
I appeal to you, **brothers**, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you,
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1 Corinthians 1:10

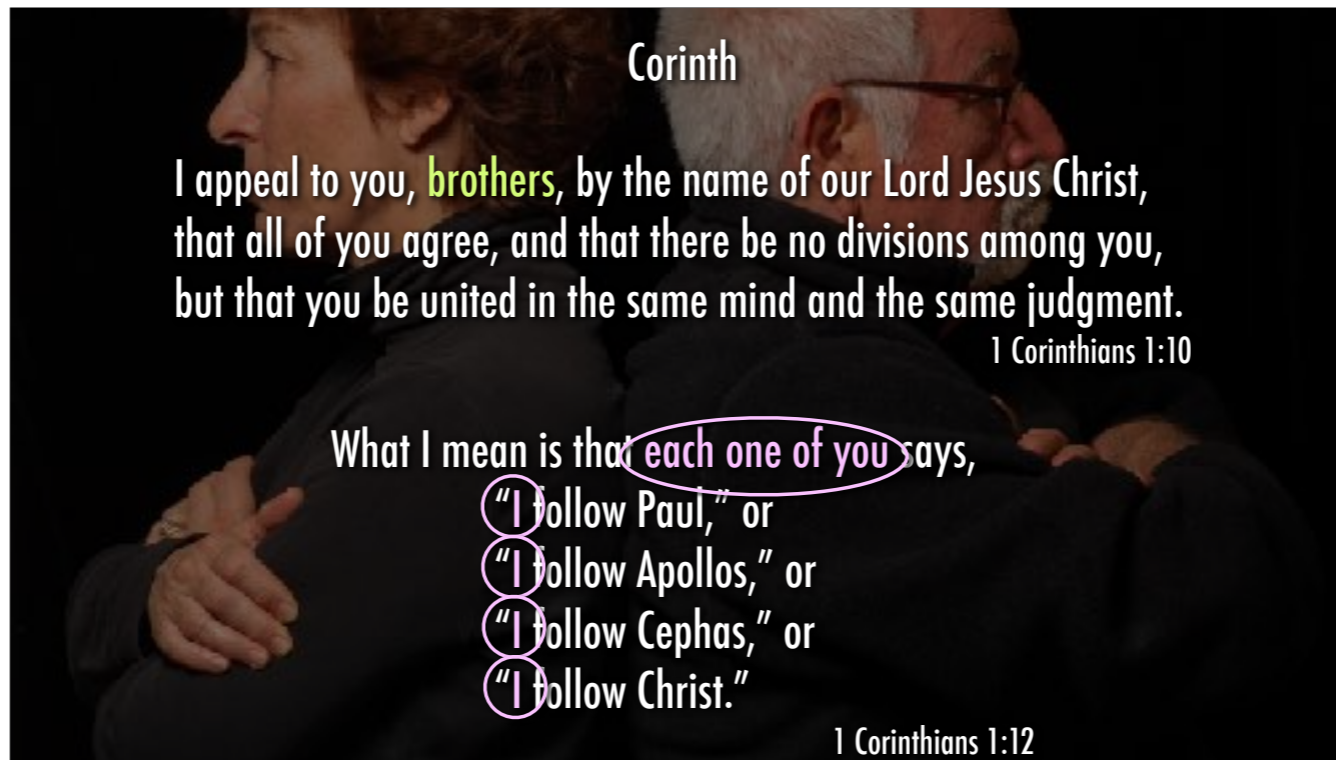
What I mean is that each one of you says,
"I follow Paul," or
"I follow Apollos," or
"I follow Cephas," or
"I follow Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:12

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- 1 Corinthians 1:12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."
- The problem in Corinth was not just divisions ... but individualism
 - They were more focused on themselves than they were on the group.
 - While we often focus on these specific groups (which is correct and justified)
 - We neglect to note the level of blatant, selfish, individualism that pervades this congregation and this letter.

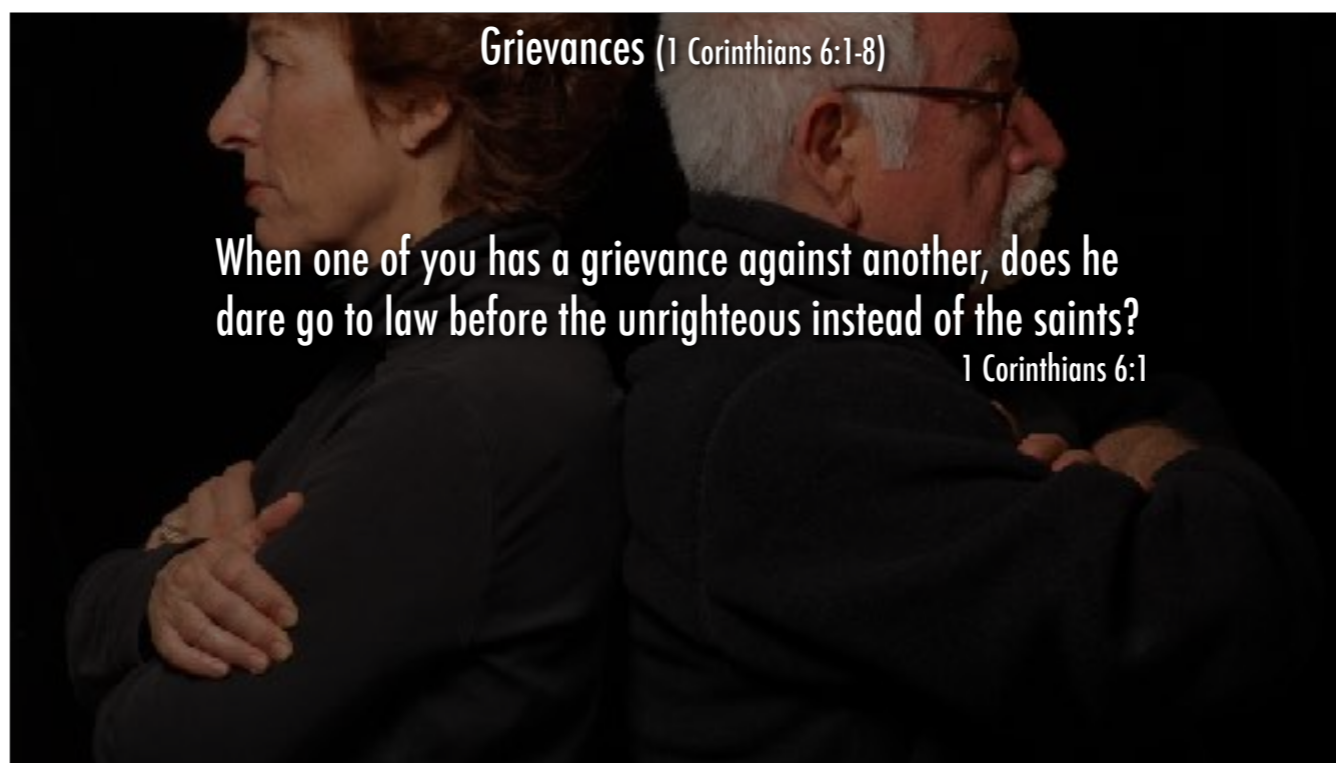


- How does this individualism affect their family relationship?
 - two specific examples in 1 Corinthians ... though there's many more
 - Grievances between Brothers
 - Eating food sacrificed to idols
- How does it affect our sibling relationships?

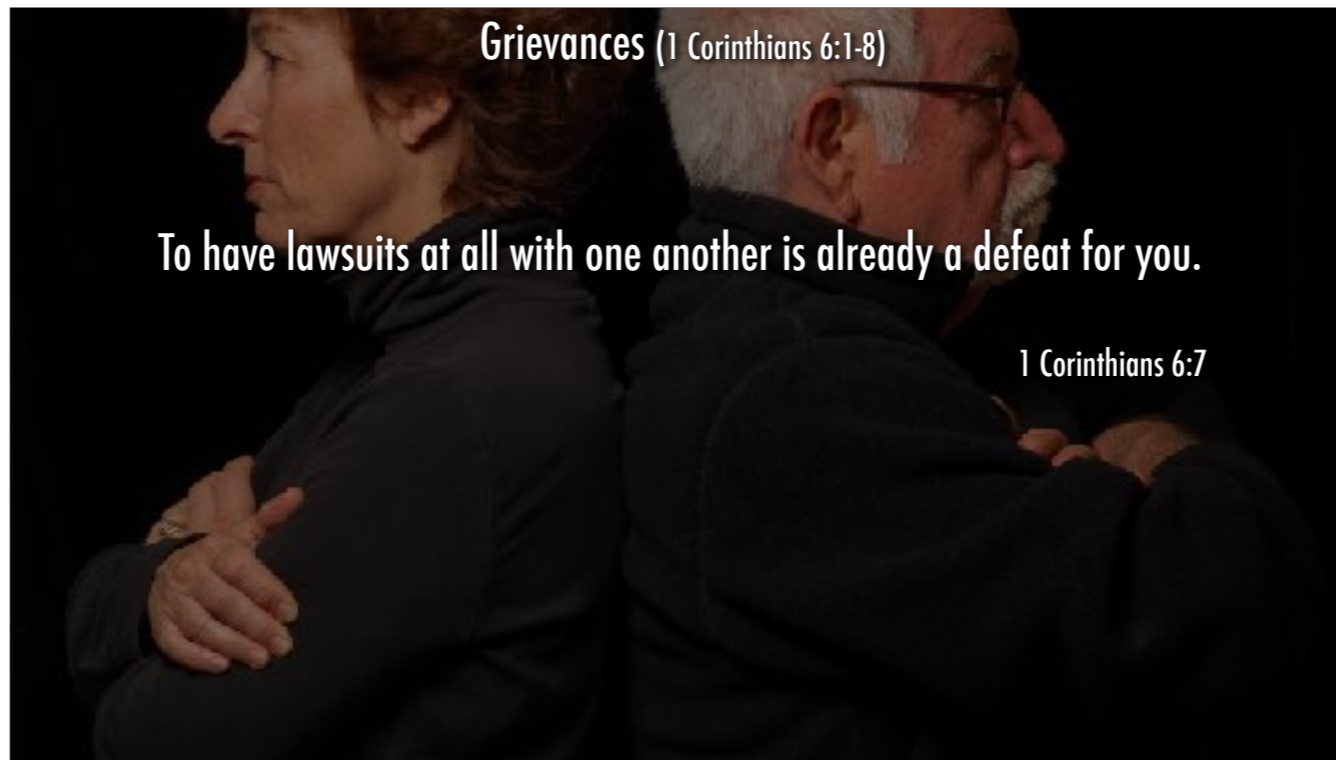


Grievances (1 Corinthians 6:1-8)

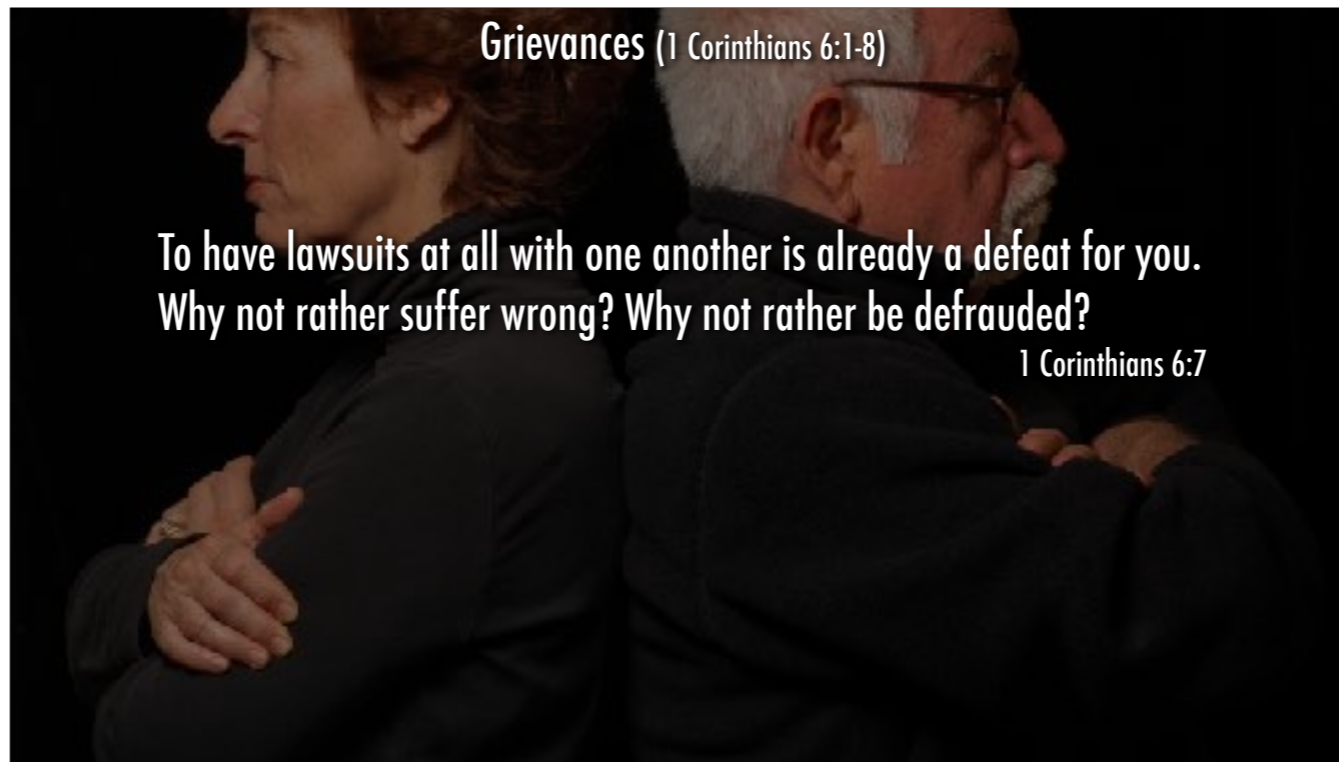
- 1 Corinthians 6:1 (ESV)
- Lawsuits Against Believers
- 1 When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?



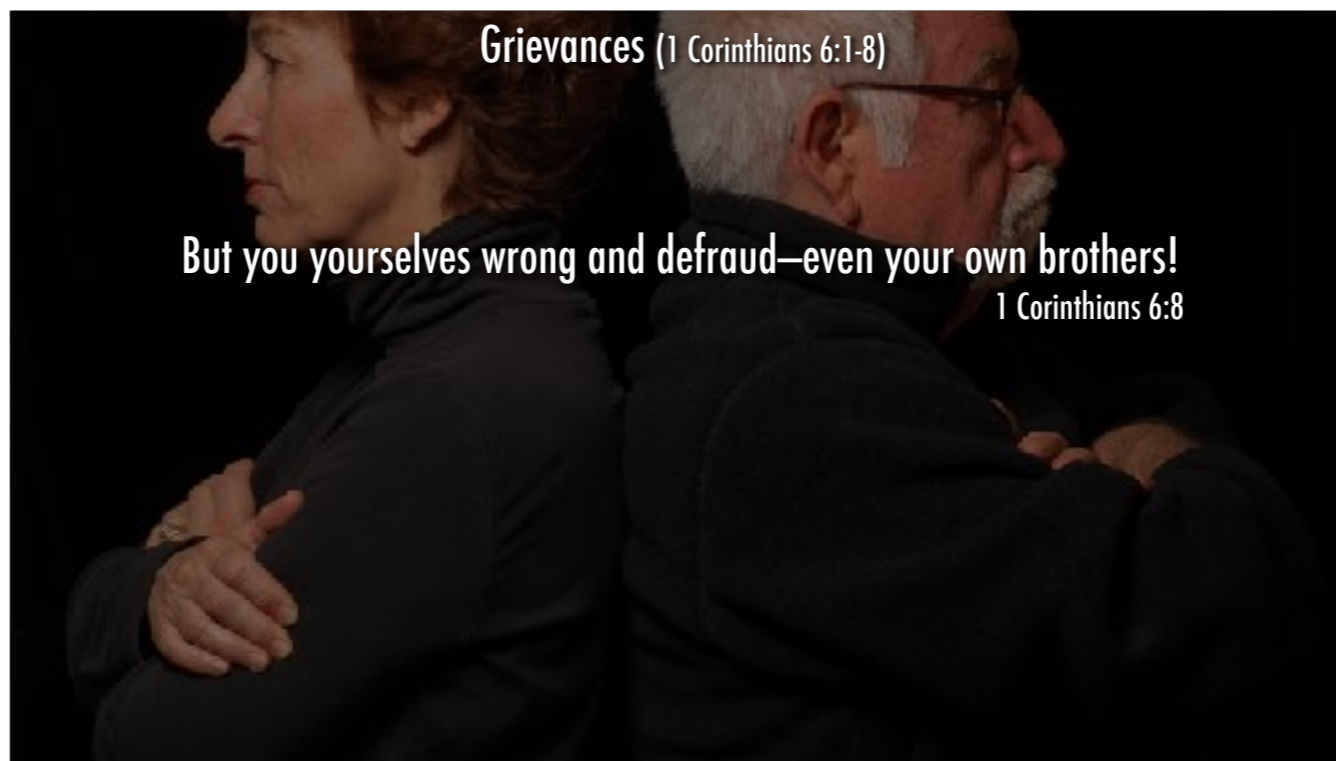
- 1 Corinthians 6:1 When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?
 - Paul argues on various levels that there's absolutely no reason for a grievance between brothers to go before those who are of the world, those who are not saints, who would use this as an opportunity to ridicule the hypocritical claims of Christians.
 - This is bad.
 - How can we teach the world about love if we are so concerned about our rights?



- 7 To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?
- Worse is that they have lawsuits.
 - This is a defeat because brethren should be different than the world
 - This is an indication of their selfishness and individualism
 - It's no longer about what is best for my brother or sister.
 - It's not about what is best for the church.
 - What's best for me is that I am recompensed and vindicated for the wrong done to me.
 - It's all about me winning over you.



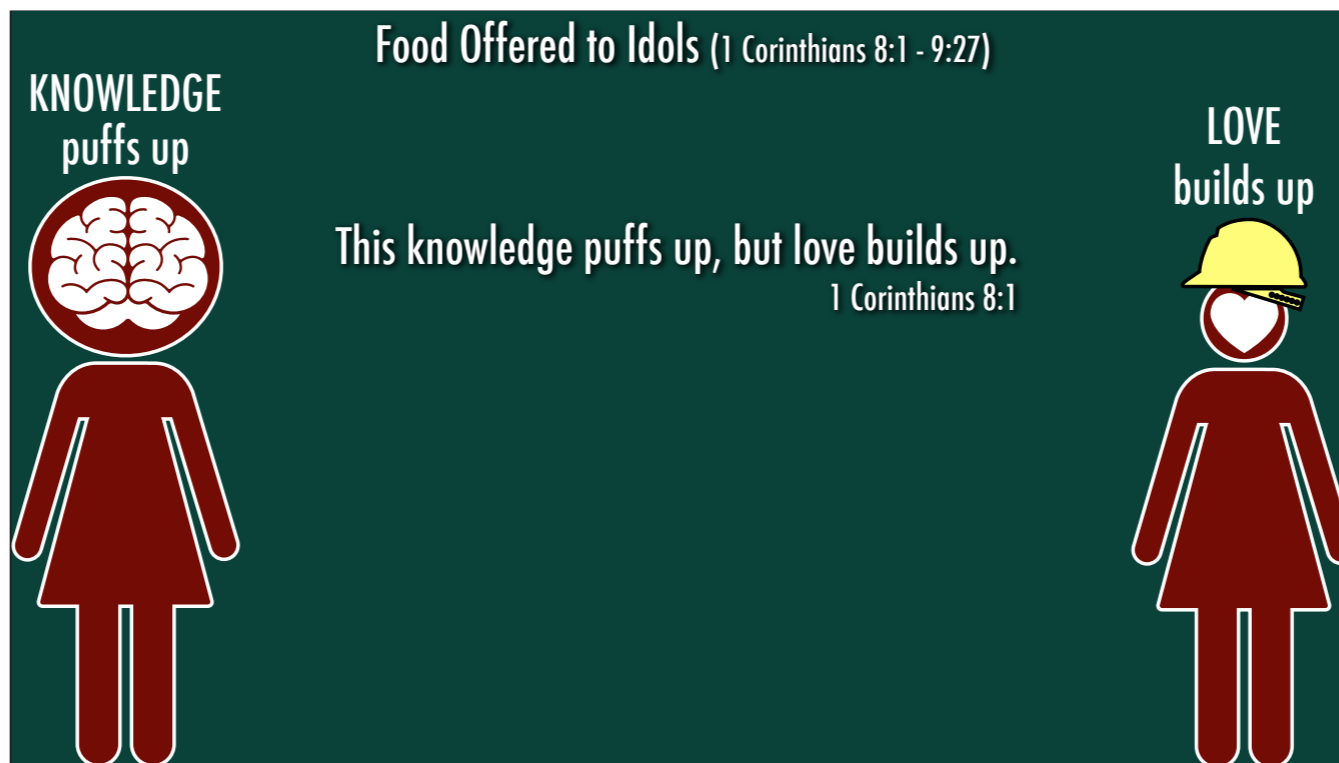
- 7 Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?
- Paul suggests that it's better to let it go.
 - Not just because it looks bad to others.
 - Just not letting this physical thing be something that would separate brethren.
- Letting go
 - more than just forgiving the grievance.
 - must not hold a grudge
 - free yourself of holding on to it



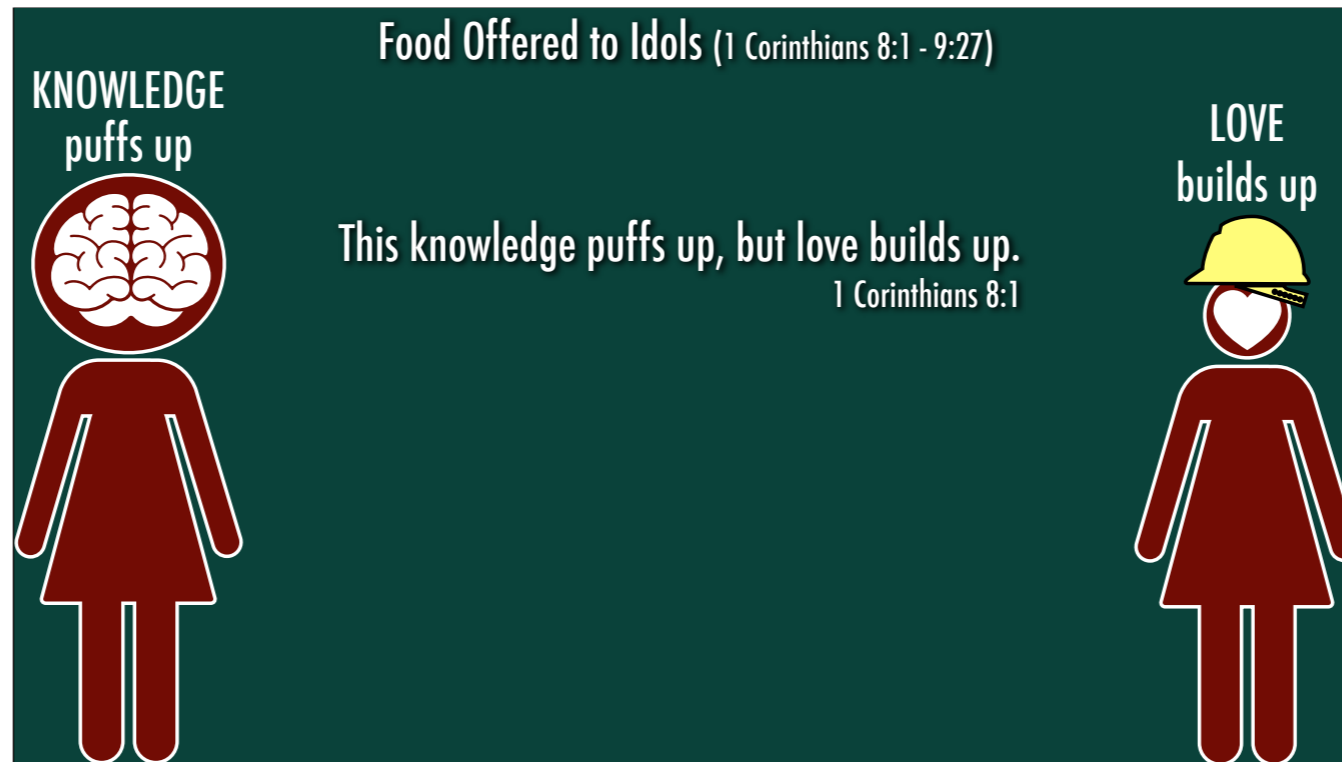
- 1 Corinthians 6:8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!
- Acts 7:26 And on the following day he appeared to them as they were quarreling and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brothers. Why do you wrong each other?’
- Even worse
 - Paul indicates that in pursuing the grievances we are the ones doing damage.
 - We are doing wrong to our brothers
 - We are defrauding them
 - If they owe me, what am I defrauding them of? Love, Mercy, Kindness, Relationship
 - Being siblings is more important than any amount of money or vindication.



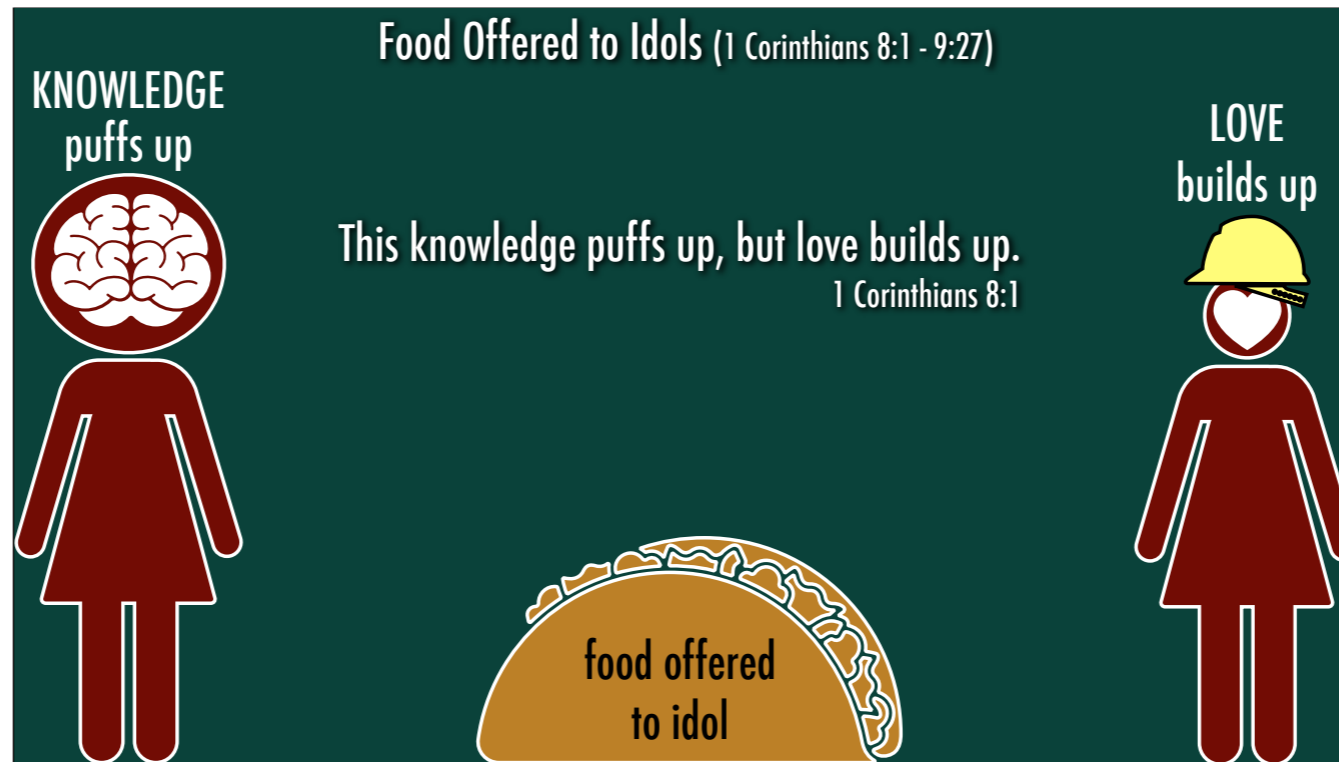
- 1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.”
 - This is what people say when they believe something is so self-evident and well understand that some one not understanding or agreeing is inconceivable.
- It’s used to justify what I want to do because we all know, therefore it’s fine.



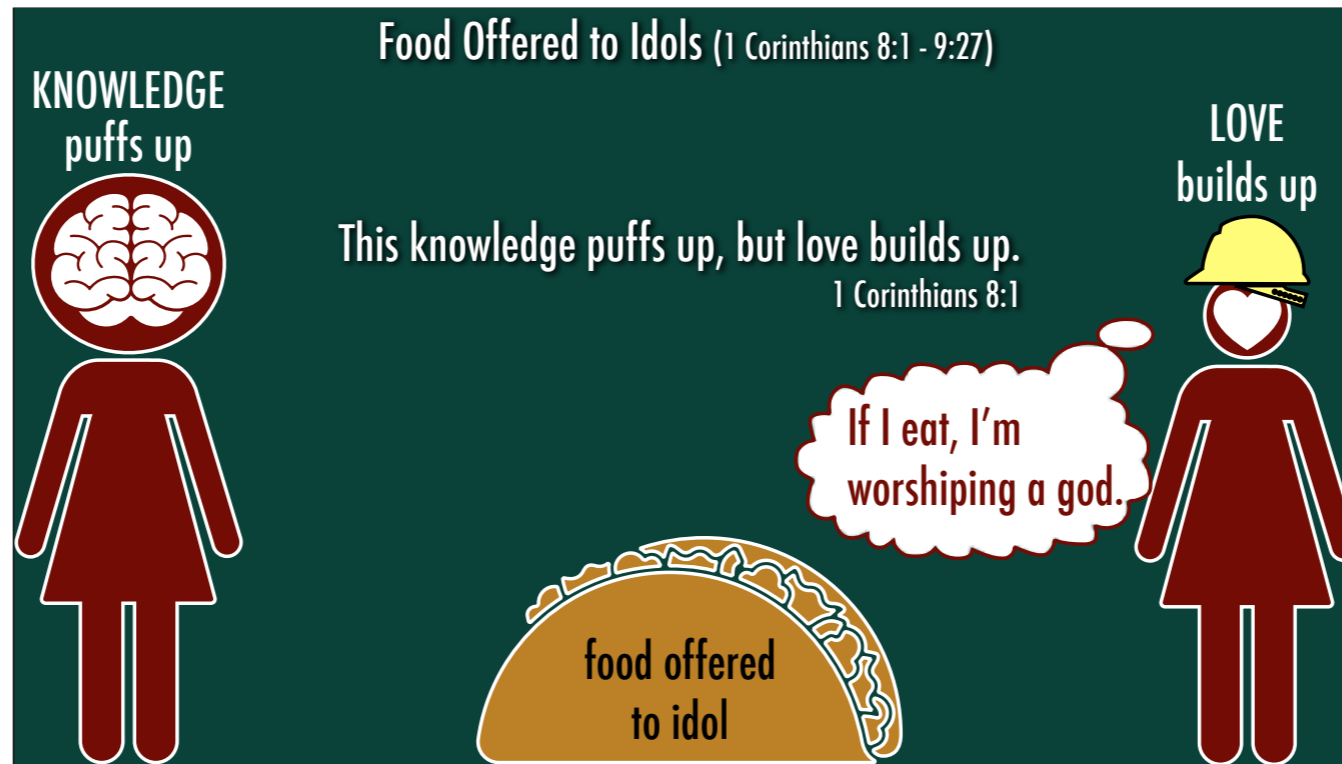
- 1 Corinthians 8:1 This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.
- Knowledge, as used here, is very much about the individual: self exaltation and preference
- Love is about what I can do for others and how I can help them, build them up.
- This sets up the struggle as Paul sees it in Corinth.



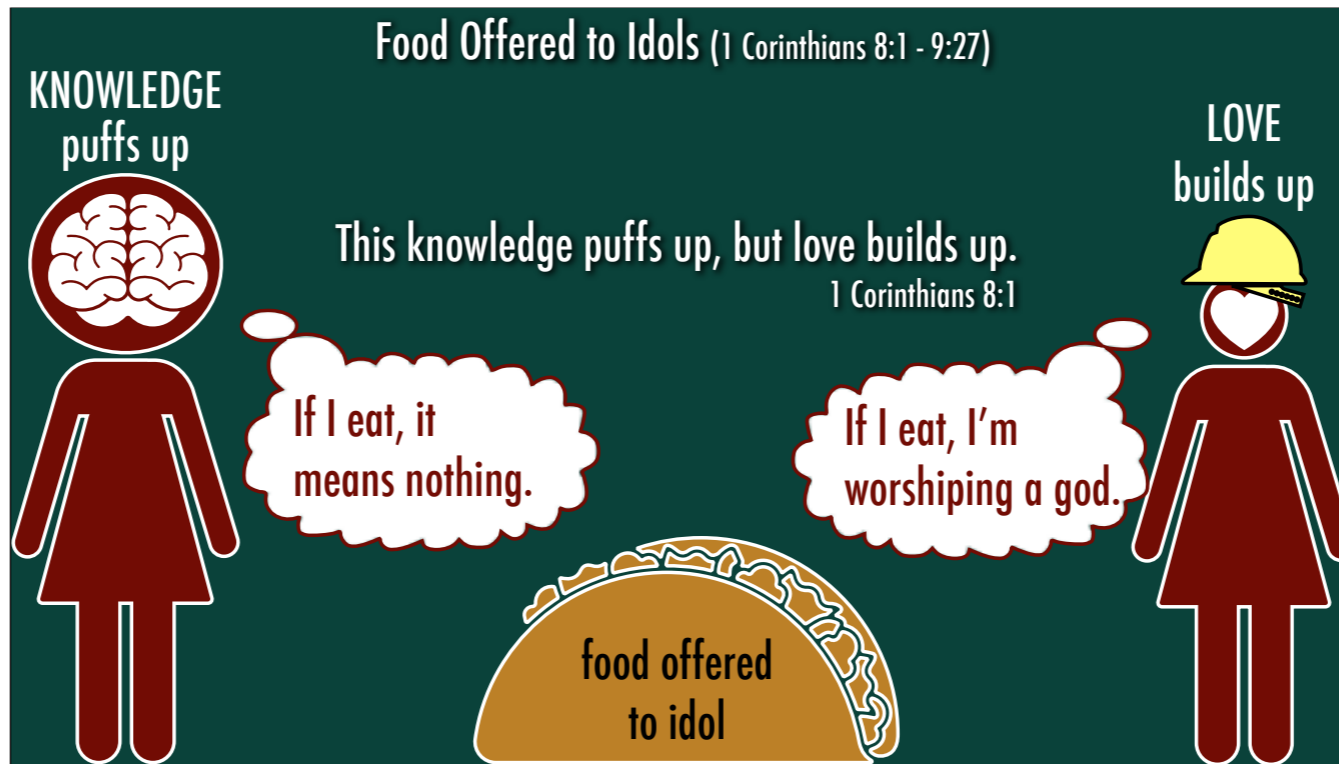
- 1 Corinthians 8:2 If anyone **imagines that he knows something**, he does not yet know as he ought to know.
 - What a contrast to the “all of us possess knowledge” that Paul began with.
 - There’s more to knowledge than just the facts?
 - Paul is saying that something is missing in the “knowledge”!
- 1 Corinthians 8:3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.
 - Paul now reminds us that often what is missing in this knowledge is love!
 - And when we love, God recognizes us as his children, approves!



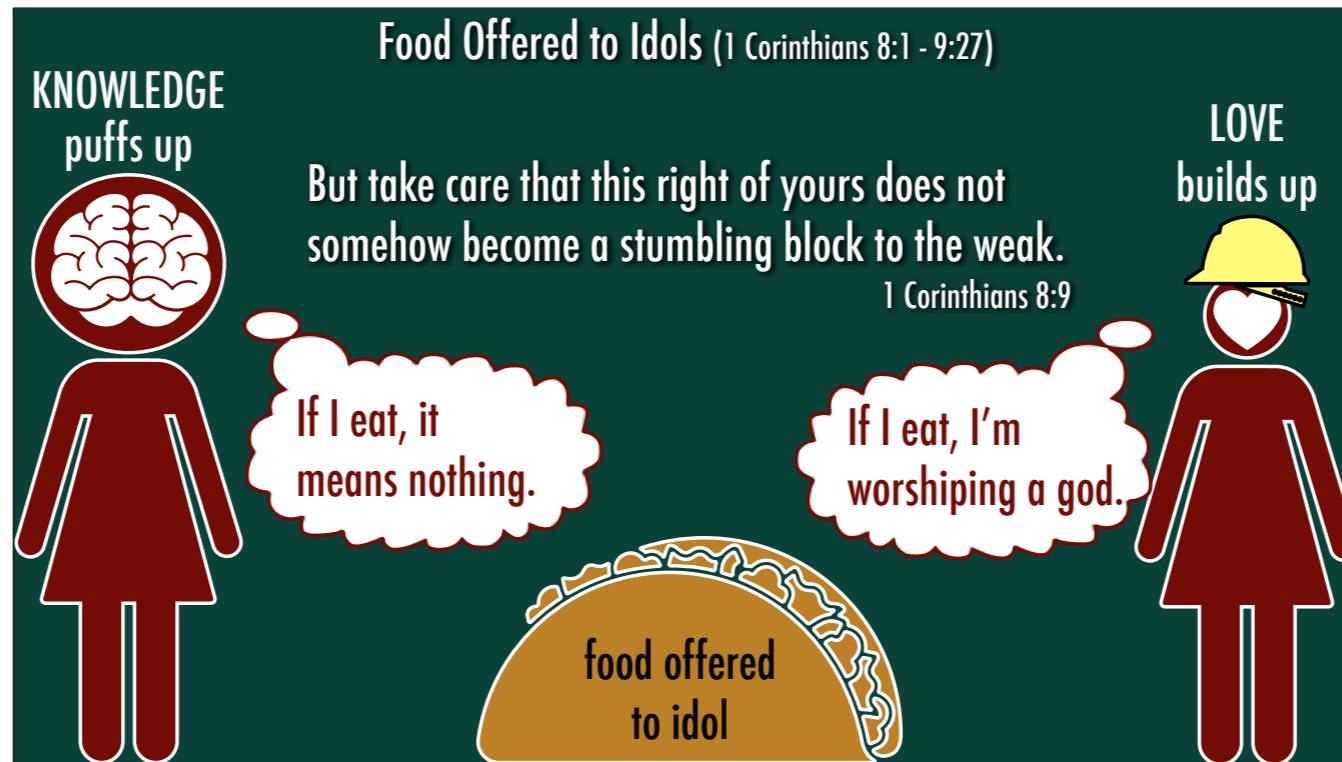
- 4-8
- **We** know there's only one God (various proofs)
- NOT all know
 - (Wait ... what?) How can some saints be struggling with not knowing there's only one God?
 - Come from a background of many gods, young in the faith, etc.
 - It's a big change!
 - Most of their lives they thought these gods were real. They existed.
 - They had honored them, and worshiped them.
 - Now they have questions.



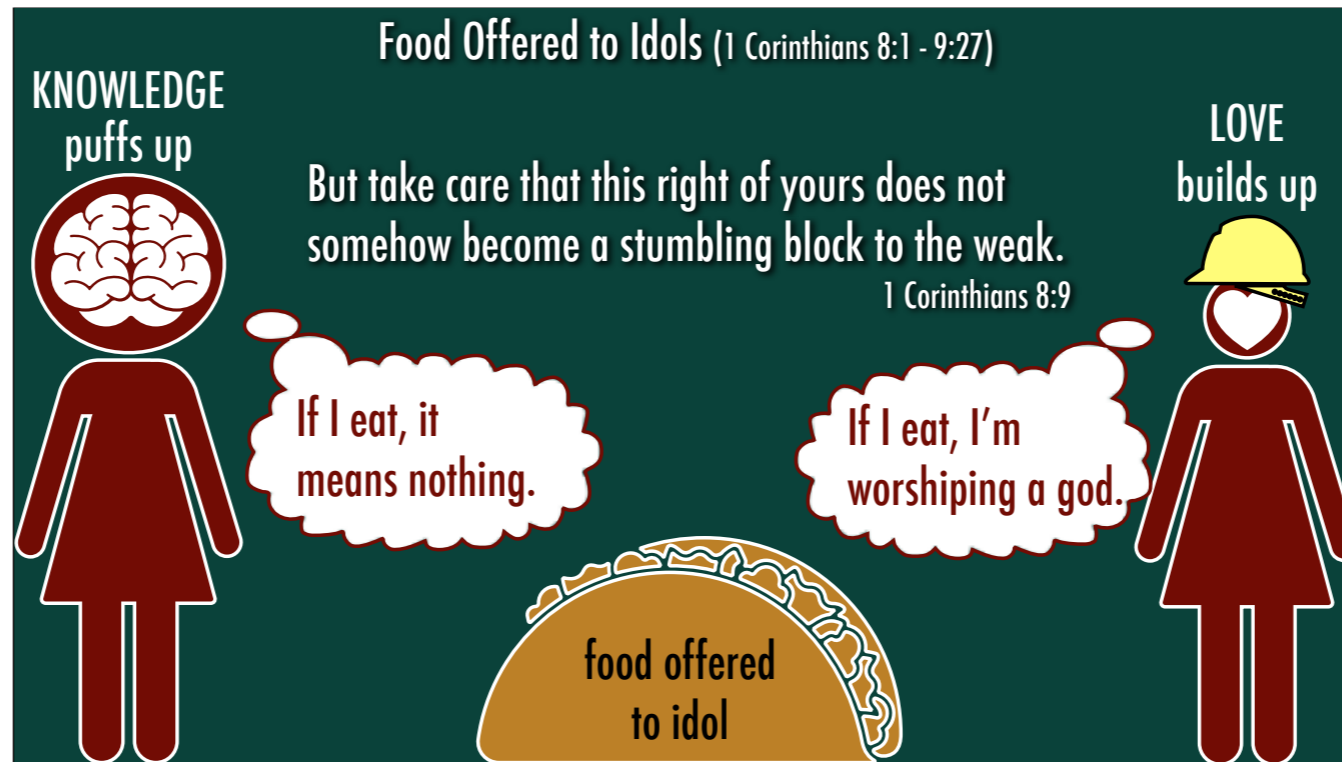
- For these the food sacrificed to idols was offered to a god.
 - And food offered to a god was worship
 - Eating food offered to a god was worship
 - If I eat this food, I've broken faith with God!



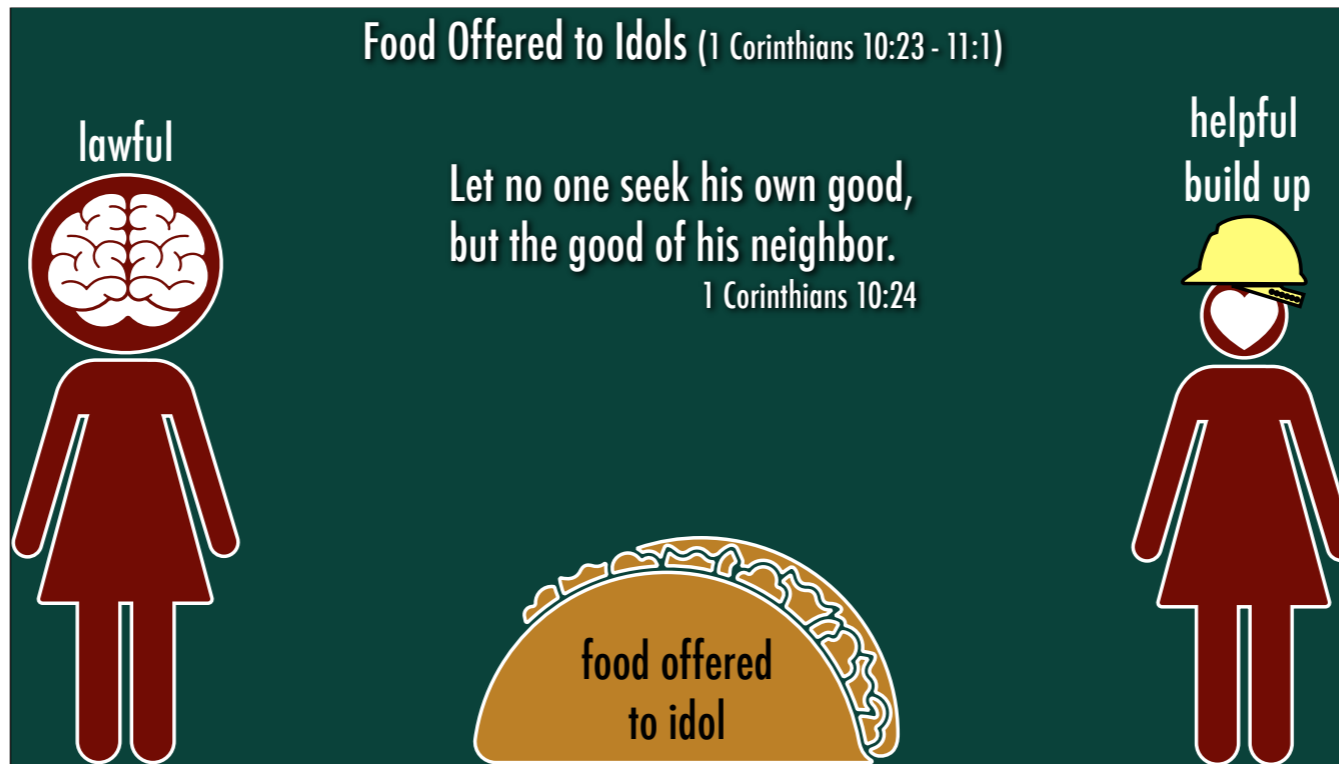
- For those who know there is only one God and the idols are nothing
 - eating the food is not worshipping because the offering was to nothing



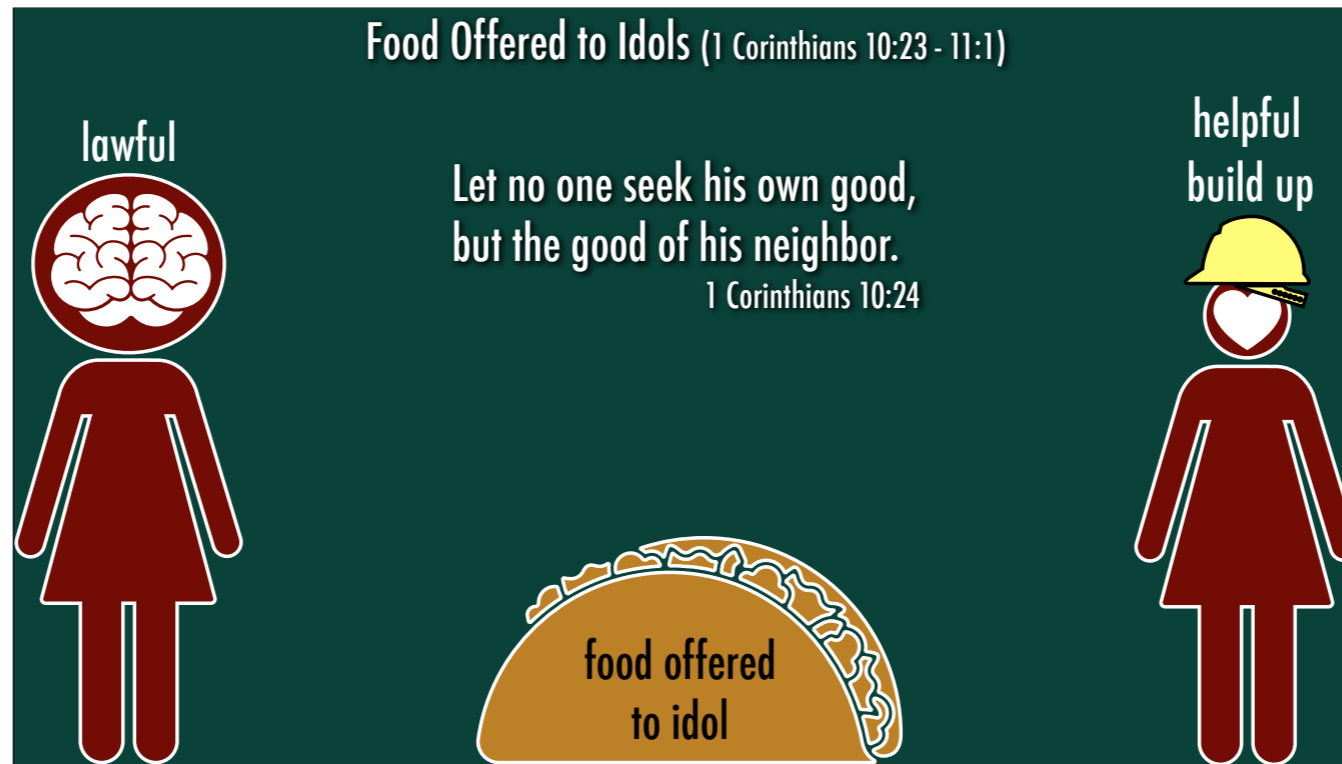
- 1 Corinthians 8:8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.
 - It's not about the food at all!
 - Why are we making such a big deal about the food?
 - Eating the food doesn't make us more righteous or less righteous.



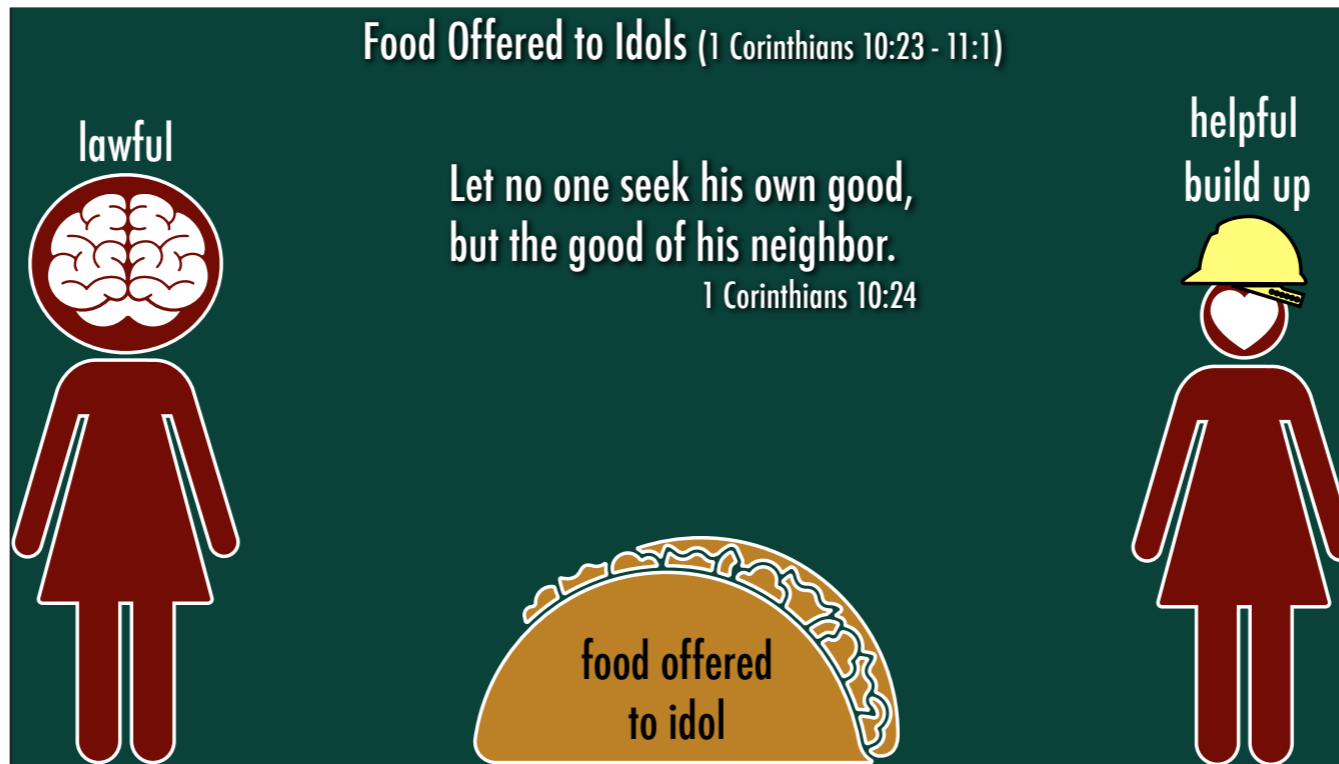
- 1 Corinthians 8:9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.
 - How a stumbling block?
 - Not encouraged.
 - Destroyed
 - Brother
 - Sin against brother ==> sin against Christ



- 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 (ESV) 23 “All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. 24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.



- Eat what ever is sold — don't ask!
 - meat sold at market from idol worship
 - it's from the Lord
- If someone says: "It was offered in sacrifice"
 - DON'T EAT
 - I need to listen to what they say ... it matters to them.
 - I don't need to lecture them or try to teach them at that moment
 - for the sake of the one and their conscience
 - From earlier: take the wrong? (1 Cor. 6)
 - This is seeking the good of the neighbor
 - Not my own good



- 1 Corinthians 10:29-30

- For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience?
- If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

Food Offered to Idols (1 Corinthians 10:23 - 11:1)

lawful



Let no one seek his own good,
but the good of his neighbor.
1 Corinthians 10:24

do all to the glory of God
1 Corinthians 10:31



helpful
build up



- 1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- 1 Corinthians 10:33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.
- 1 Corinthians 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Am I Not Free (1 Corinthians 9)



Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?

1 Corinthians 9:1

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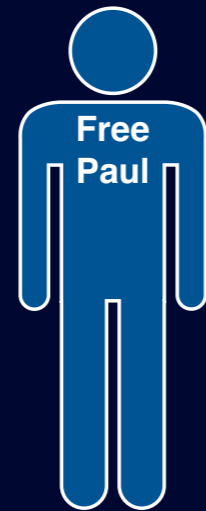
Rights:

Eat and Drink
Believing Wife
Work for a Living

• Rights:

- Eat and Drink
- Believing Wife
- Work for a Living

Am I Not Free (1 Corinthians 9)



Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?

1 Corinthians 9:1

Rights: Work for a Living

Normal

The Law

Sow and Reap

- Work for a Living
 - It's normal (7) (Soldier, Vineyard, Shepherd)
 - In the Law (8-10) : Don't muzzle the oxen
 - Sowing and Reaping (11)
 - Spiritual things —> physical things
 - RIGHTFUL CLAIM (14)
 - 1 Corinthians 9:14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

Am I Not Free (1 Corinthians 9)

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?

1 Corinthians 9:1



Rights: Work for a Living

WE HAVE NOT MADE
USE OF THIS RIGHT



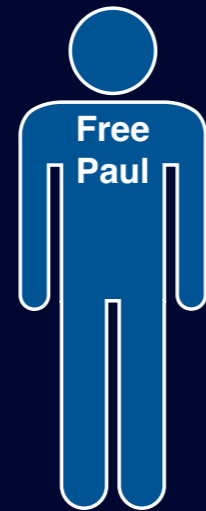
No obstacle in the
way of the gospel

- 12 Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.
- I have a right to be paid by you for the work I do in teaching the gospel
 - But I'd rather save your soul and share the gospel

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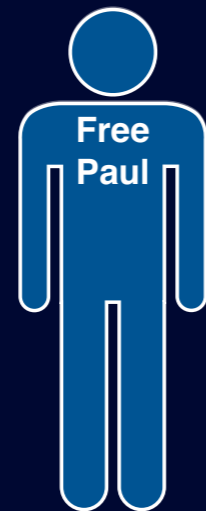
No obstacle in the
way of the gospel

- 15 But I have made no use of any of these rights
- 18 What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

Am I Not Free (1 Corinthians 9)

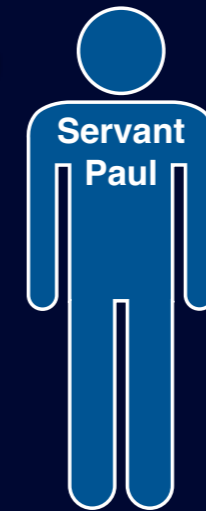
For though I am free from all, I have made myself
a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

1 Corinthians 9:19



Rights: Work for a Living

made myself a servant to all



- 19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.
- Made myself a servant to all
 - Not claiming rights (self)
 - Servant (thinking of others)
 - Servants don't claim their rights
- 19: Win More
- 22: Save Some
- 23: Share with them in Blessings

Am I Not Free (1 Corinthians 9)

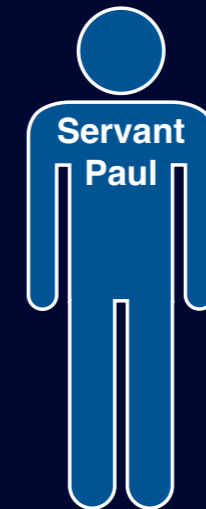
For though I am free from all, I have made myself
a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

1 Corinthians 9:19



Rights: Work for a Living

made myself a servant to all



- 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
 - Discipline = not claiming my rights
 - Self Control = not claiming my rights
 - 12 Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but **we endure anything** rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.
- Yes you do have your rights.
 - But that's not the point when it comes to how you treat your siblings!
 - What can I do to build up?

Am I Not Free (1 Corinthians 9)

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1



Rights: Work for a Living

made myself a servant to all

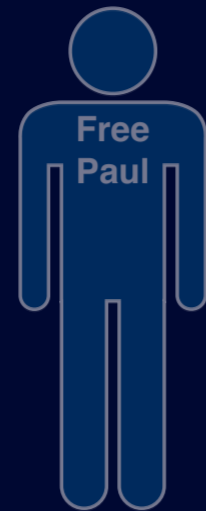


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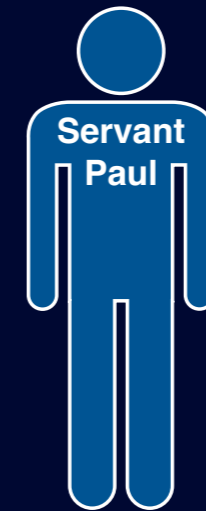
Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

1 Corinthians 8:13

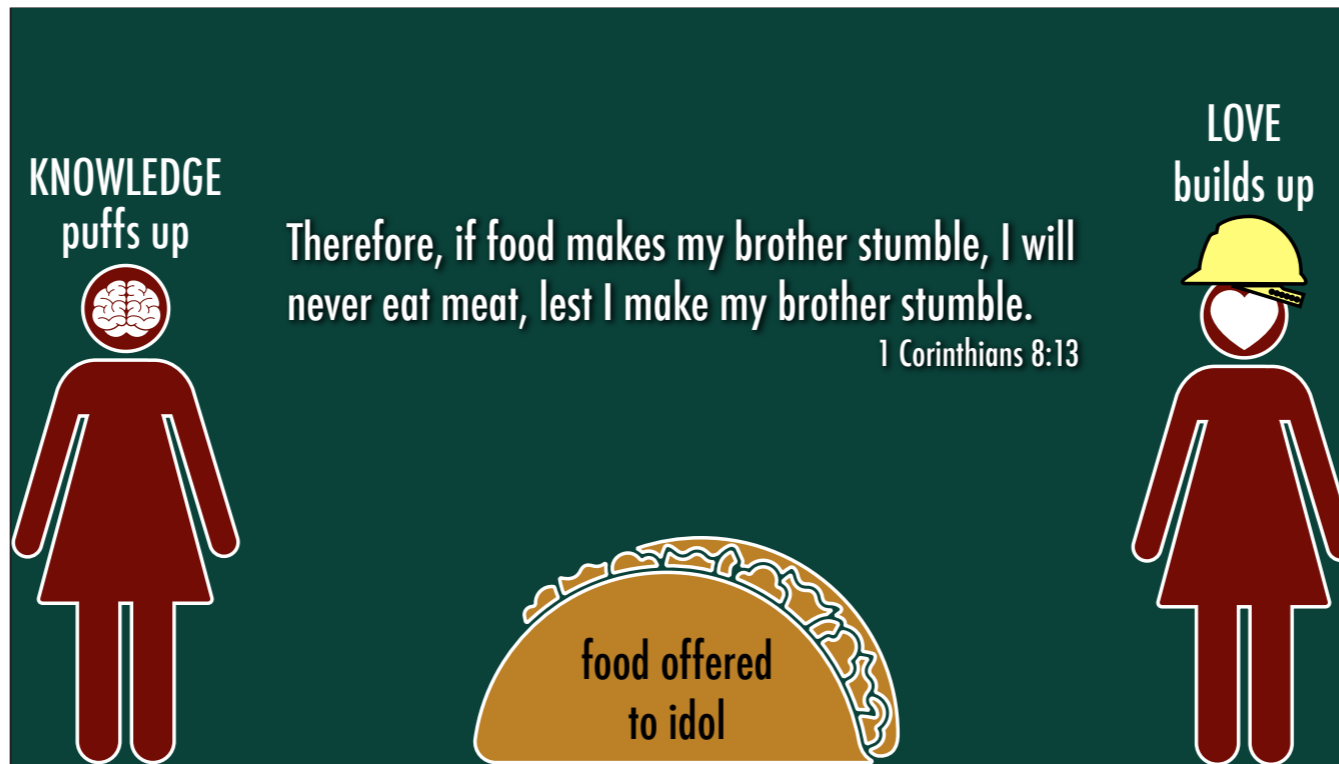


Rights: Work for a Living

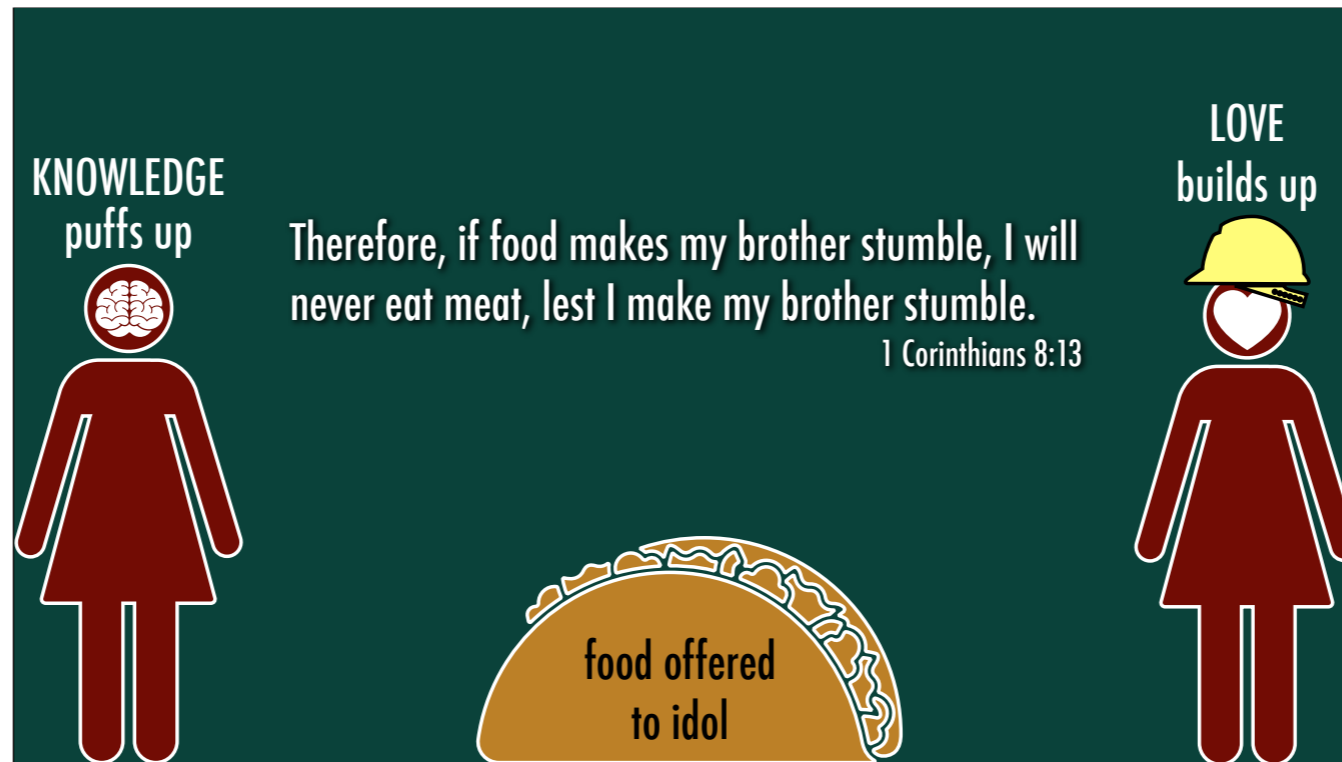
made myself a servant to all



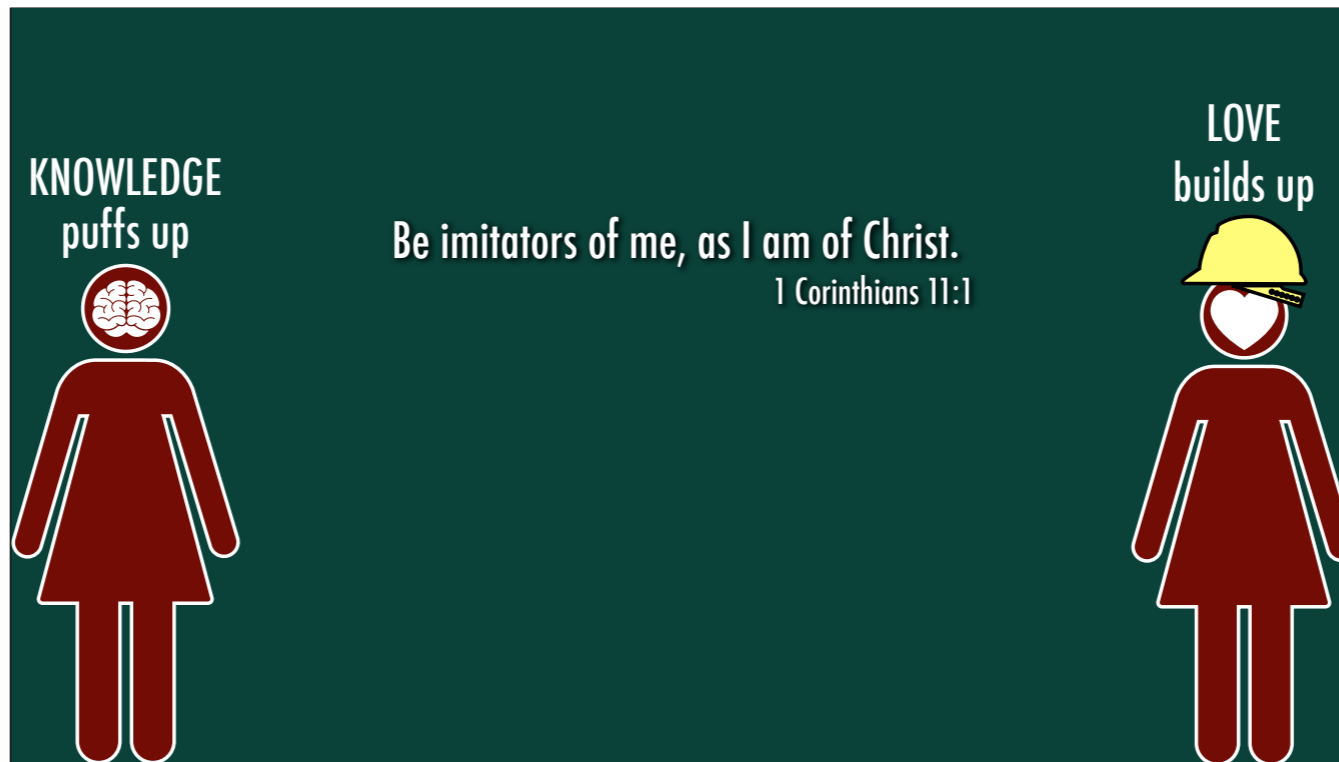
- 1 Corinthians 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.
 - Paul the free man: I have the right to eat the food.
 - Paul the servant: I chose not to so that I can build you up, be siblings



- 1 Corinthians 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.
- Dave ... who knows all the arguments and has his rights: I can eat the taco!
- Dave ... who serves: I'm not going to eat the taco because I love you more than I love the taco.



- What does this mean for us?
- We don't have to worry about food offered to idols.
- What are some things in my life where I hold onto my rights instead of loving my brethren?
 - If they existed for the Corinthian saints
 - They exist for us too.
- Chances are the ones who had no problem eating the food had no idea what it was doing to their siblings.
- And chances are there are things I'm doing that cause you to doubt? struggle? destroy?
 - What can I do to build you up?



- 1 Corinthians 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.
- Yes I have my rights. And I'm free.
- Chose to be a servant
 - helpful
 - build up
 - love
 - Share in blessings

Let brotherly love continue.

Hebrews 13:1

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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A Servant to All

1 Corinthians 9:19

Synopsis: Paul reminds the brothers and sisters in Corinth that their individualism and rights are not as important as loving each other, helping each other and building each other up.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”