

"Love Builds Up"
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1 Corinthians 8
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Proposition:

Love is the principle that informs our behavior towards others regardless of how much we know.

1. Love is God's Agent of True Change

1Now about food sacrificed to idols:
We know that "we all have
knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but
love builds up.

a. Love Builds Up

We know that "we all have knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up

b. Love is from God

2 If anyone thinks he knows anything, he does not yet know it as he ought to know it. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by him.

2. Love Surrenders Personal Liberties

7 However, not everyone has this knowledge. Some have been so used to idolatry up until now that when they eat food sacrificed to an idol, their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

a. It Directs Our Rights
9 But be careful that this right of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak.

b. It Directs Our Knowledge
11 So the weak person, the brother or sister for whom Christ died, is ruined by your knowledge.

3. Love Sacrifices for the Sake of Others

13 Therefore, if food causes my brother or sister to fall, I will never again eat meat, so that I won't cause my brother or sister to fall.

a. It Counts the Cost

13 Therefore, if food causes my brother or sister to fall...

b. It Chooses to Die

13...I will never again eat meat, so that I won't cause my brother or sister to fall.

Love constrains liberty. Love directs knowledge and how we live out our Christian lives for the good of others that we may direct them all to Christ. We are to love like Christ has loved us – giving up His rights that we might be free.

Questions for self reflection:

- 1. Does love constrain liberty in your life?
- 2. Does what you know make you beautiful or does it repel others?
- 3. Does the truth make you more like Jesus Christ in your deeds, in your words?