

# MESSAGE GUIDE

## REBOOT: “To Meat or Not to Meat?”



June 10, 2018

### 1 Corinthians 8

- **CONNECT**

What are some hobbies, behaviors or preferences that you would have trouble giving up, even if someone you loved asked you to?

### STUDY

1 Corinthians 8 gets us thinking about what some people call “grey areas.” These are issues that aren’t clearly talked about in scripture, thus demanding we think a bit deeper about our choices. The issue Paul responded to in this chapter is one that doesn’t mean much to us: whether or not to eat food sacrificed to idols. But it does provide a lot of good food for thought when deciding how to wisely handle our freedom in Christ.

- What was the issue Paul responded to according to verse 1? Specifically, what was the issue/concern?
- Before giving a definitive answer to the question, what did Paul write in verses 1-3? Why did he feel the need to share these thoughts? How is it that having knowledge can create the opportunity to become puffed up?
- In verses 4-6, Paul lays out his answer to the question at hand. What does he say about meat for sale that had been previously used in idol sacrifices?

- But Paul had an addendum to add to his answer! What does he add to the conversation in verses 7-13? What is the point he’s trying to make?

### APPLY

- What does it mean, as a Christian, to have a weak conscience? Why do those who have “knowledge” need to be careful about their decisions in regard to the weaker Christian?
- For the Corinthians, the issue of eating meat sacrificed to idols was really big. Some in the church couldn’t imagine eating such meat; others ate with confidence before the Lord. But what about us? What types of issues do Christians face in our *current culture* that bring about the same level of discussion as “idol meat”?
- How do we know when or if some area of Christian freedom we enjoy is or could be a stumbling block to a weaker Christian? Do we ask them? Do they have to tell us? What do you think?
- How do we know when it’s wise to defer to a weaker brother or sister, and when can we confidently exercise our freedom in Christ? How do we make such decisions?