

# MESSAGE GUIDE

## REBOOT: “To Meat or Not to Meat?” Part 2



June 17, 2018

### 1 Corinthians 8

#### CONNECT

- Looking back over your Christian journey, are there some beliefs/convictions you once held that you don't subscribe to anymore? On the other hand, have you added some new beliefs/convictions that weren't part of your earlier Christian experience? What led to your changing of perspectives?

#### STUDY

For the last two weeks, we've parked ourselves in 1 Corinthians 8. On the surface, it seems to be an odd chapter about an ancient problem: the question of whether or not to eat meat used in pagan sacrificial rituals. But the bigger topic on the table (and one that very much applies to us) is the challenge of discerning right from wrong in areas not well-defined in Scripture. Some people call these dilemmas “grey areas” because they are not so easily figured out. In some cases, one Christian's conscience will allow him to participate in a certain activity, while another Christian will not sense the same freedom.

- At the core of the issue of grey areas is to understand our freedom in Christ. What do the following verses have to say about being free as a believer?: Galatians 5:1; Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 2:16; Romans 8:2; Romans 6:2; 1 Corinthians 6:12
- What was it that we as Christians are freed from? How are we supposed to use our newfound freedom? Is it possible to abuse our freedom in Christ?

- At the very end of 1 Corinthians 8, Paul said, “Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.” Why did he say this? What made him make such a strong, definitive statement?

- Give 1 Corinthians 8 another read-through. To what conclusions do you think Paul wanted the questioning Corinthians to come to by reading what he wrote?

#### APPLY

- Reflecting back on the message, why is legalism such a dead end? How about license?
- We may not struggle with issues of meat being sacrificed to idols, but we have plenty of grey areas to figure out! What are some grey issues common to the Christian in 2018?
- What are some good questions to ask ourselves before we dive into an activity, even if our conscience tells us we are free? (Perhaps the answers to these questions will cause us to rethink our participation!)
- Why do you think God doesn't address all our grey area dilemmas in Scripture? If He hasn't spoken specifically about an issue, what tools does He provide us to figure things out?