



# Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"

*For the Week of May 8, 2016*



## 1 Corinthians 8

### Concerning Food Sacrificed to Idols

1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. 2 Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. 3 But whoever loves God is known by God.

4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

7 But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

### Sermon Outline

- In chapter 8 Paul answers the Corinthians' question about whether or not it was ok to eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols.
- This speaks to our questions today about "grey issues" that Christians disagree over.
- Paul reminds us that knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
- Our goal within the church is to build one another up into unity of the faith and knowledge of God.

### WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- What is the funniest story/joke you can think of?

### WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. What is something that you felt God spoke to you about this week – either through your daily quiet time, this week's Scripture passage, or the sermon?
2. What was the issue that the Corinthian believers were disagreeing about?
3. What are some modern-day issues that are similar?
4. How can knowing that "you don't solve every problem with logic" help us to relate to others that we disagree with?
5. What are some ways we might be able to build up weaker believers?
6. Why is love more important than knowledge? Are there any limits to this idea?
7. Why is it that the stronger person always has to change and not the weaker person?

