

Sermon Notes – February 18, 2018

Review

- ⇒ Several weeks ago, we saw that we must RUN from sin & temptation. The culture around us fosters an “I-want-it-now” attitude, encouraging us to follow our impulses & desires, even when they violate God’s standards.
- ⇒ In our study last week, we saw two underlying questions: “What is my motivation?” and “What is the impact?” – both helpful questions as we consider major decisions. Paul’s concern is that we would live with “undistracted devotion to the Lord.”

Today’s Text: I Corinthians 8:1-13

“Paul turns from his extended section dedicated primarily to questions of sexual immorality and the need to glorify God with our bodies, to a section dedicated to the issues of idolatry and the proper worship of God” (Ciampa). As in previous sections, notice the “Now concerning” in 8:1, a clear indication that Paul is responding to questions posed by the Corinthian believers.

Knowledge Without Humility is Dangerous (1-3; 4-6)

- ⇒ Before Paul addresses the cultural issue presented, he takes on the even bigger problem: knowledge separated from humility! Knowledge alone results in _____.
- ⇒ Note: Paul is not _____ knowledge – he dispenses lots of it – but get this: spiritual growth is NOT just about collecting information. (Good, conservative churches are often guilty of perpetuating this myth; parents sometimes are too).
- ⇒ The cultural issue: Should a Christian eat food that has been part of idol worship or not? Is such food tainted? Is eating the food the same as “supporting” idol worship? What if other believers disagree or have a _____ in this area, perhaps due to a background in paganism? Should I care?
- ⇒ This text is similar to Romans 14, but with a greater emphasis on the danger of association with idol worship in a cultural setting drenched in the worship of false gods.

The Value of Knowledge AND Humility I Corinthians 8:1-13 Pastor Jay Mosser

- ⇒ This paragraph (4-6) reflects the “Shema” in Deut. 6:4 and a similar phrase in Deut. 10:17 – “the Lord your God, He is God of gods and Lord of lords...”

Love for Others Often Calls for Yielding Our Rights (7-13)

- ⇒ Those with “less knowledge” not only need to be _____; they need to be loved and nurtured. They don’t need to be smacked with your cool insight as much as they need you to serve them. (7)
- ⇒ “Weak conscience” isn’t the same as “_____” or “_____.” In this context, those with a weak conscience are those who could fall into sin or entirely step away from Christ if they were “encouraged” in the wrong direction by your actions. Think about it: Would you offer a recovering alcoholic a glass of champagne? (7)
- ⇒ “It’s not about the food!” (8)
- ⇒ “Take care...” (9) **Quietly _____ rights and graciously _____ “rights” are marks of maturity!**
- ⇒ Romans 14 encourages believers to exercise areas of freedom with _____, so as not to offend truly “weaker” brothers & sisters.

Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ In dealing with a controversial topic, have you ever said, “They need to get over it!” Could it be, perhaps, that YOU need to get over yourself, and instead of being “right,” learn to love more deeply?
- ⇒ Is there an area of freedom you enjoy or convictions you possess that don’t build up other believers? Is this an area you should carry with more humility – or even set aside altogether? (Not all freedoms or convictions need to be posted on social media).
- ⇒ Some believers are “professional weaker brothers or sisters” – they’re easily offended and have little capacity to overlook minor transgressions. Once again, this is typically a manifestation of pride – too much attention to one’s self. Remember Tim Keller? Humility isn’t about thinking LESS of yourself but thinking of yourself LESS. Could you benefit from a dose of humility?
- ⇒ “Rights” can sometimes be an obstacle in relationships. What “rights” might you need to joyfully yield to be a more affective spouse or parent?