

Discussion Questions

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 – “Bad Idea 3: My Freedom Is More Important Than Your Faith”

Opening Reflection

1. When you hear the word *freedom*, what does it usually mean to you in everyday life? How does that compare to the way Paul uses the word in this passage?

Understanding the Text

2. Why do you think Paul begins this discussion by contrasting *knowledge* and *love* rather than by immediately addressing the behavior itself?
3. Paul agrees that idols are “nothing,” yet he still warns against certain behaviors. What does this tell us about how correct beliefs and loving actions relate to each other?
4. How does Paul define a “weak” believer in this chapter? What misconceptions might we have about weakness or maturity in faith?

Theological Reflection

5. Paul says that harming another believer’s conscience is a sin “against Christ.” Why do you think he uses such strong language?
6. How does Paul’s resolution in verse 13 challenge common cultural ideas about personal rights and individual freedom?
7. What does this passage reveal about the kind of community the gospel is trying to form?

Personal Discernment

8. Can you think of a situation where something is technically permissible, but still might not be loving or wise in a particular setting?
9. Have you ever been influenced, positively or negatively, by another Christian’s example? What did that experience teach you?
10. In what areas of life do you most feel the tension between “I can” and “I should”?

Life Application

11. What might it look like to use your freedom to *build up* rather than to assert yourself?
12. Are there people in your life whose faith might be more fragile or still forming? How might love shape your choices around them?
13. Paul says love sometimes chooses limitation. What fears or assumptions make that difficult for us?

Closing Reflection

14. How does this passage reshape the way you think about spiritual maturity?
15. What is one concrete way you could practice freedom shaped by love this week?