

Church Matters: Good Conscience

1 Corinthians 8

Love

¹ Now as touching [with respect to] things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but **charity edifieth**.

Knowledge – [NT:1108](#) γνῶσις **gnosis** (gno'-sis); from [NT:1097](#); knowing (the act), i.e. (by implication) knowledge: **KJV** - knowledge, science.

Puffeth up – [NT:5448](#) φυσιώω **phusioo** (foo-see-o'-o); from [NT:5449](#) in the primary sense of blowing; to inflate, i.e. (figuratively) make proud (haughty): **KJV** - puff up.

Charity – [NT:26](#) ἀγάπη **agape** (ag-ah'-pay); from [NT:25](#); love, i.e. affection or benevolence; specially (plural) a love-feast: **KJV** - (feast of) charity ([-ably]), dear, love.

Edifieth – [NT:3618](#) οἰκοδομέω **oikodomeo** (oy-kod-om-eh'-o); from the same as [NT:3619](#); to be a house-builder, i.e. construct or (figuratively) confirm:

KJV - (be in) build (-er, -ing, up), edify, embolden [encouraged]. [*constructive*]

Romans 14

¹⁹ Let us therefore follow after the things which **make for peace**, and **things wherewith one may edify another**.

Romans 15

² Let every one of us **please his neighbour** for his **good to edification**.

1 Corinthians 14

²⁶ How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. **Let all things be done unto edifying**.

Ephesians 4

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

¹⁶ From whom the **whole body fitly joined together and compacted** by that which every joint supplieth, according to the **effectual working** in the measure of every part, **maketh increase** of the body unto the **edifying of itself in love**.

1 John 4:8

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love**.

1 John 4

¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love**; and **he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him**.

1 Corinthians 8

² And **if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know**.

Man who thinks he knows something, knows nothing as he should know the Word of God

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Humility

1 Corinthians 8

³ But if any man love God, the same is **known of Him**.

We are not something because we know God, rather, if we know anything it is because we are known of God

Psalm 76

¹ In Judah is **God known**: his name is great in Israel.

Ezekiel 20

⁵ And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord **GOD**; In the day when **I chose Israel**, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, **I am the LORD your God**;

Romans 1

¹⁹ Because **that which may be known of God is manifest** [by God] in them; for **God hath shewed it unto them**.

Galatians 4

⁹ But now, after that ye have **known God**, or rather are **known of God**, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Deuteronomy 11

¹⁶ Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be **not** deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve **other gods**, and worship them;

Confidence

1 Corinthians 8

⁴ As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is **none other God but one**.

Isaiah 44

⁶ Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and **beside me there is no God**.

Isaiah 44

⁸ Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. **Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any**.

Isaiah 45

⁵ **I am the LORD**, and **there is none else, there is no God beside me**: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

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Confidence *cont*)

1 Corinthians 8 (*cont*)

⁴ As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is **none other God but one**.

Isaiah 45

²¹ Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and **there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me**.

beside me – [OT:1107](#) בִּלְאֵדַי **bil`adey** (bil-ad-ay'); or **bal`adey** (bal-ad-ay'); constructive plural from [OT:1077](#) and [OT:5703](#), not till, i.e. (as preposition or adverb) except, without, besides: **KJV** - beside, not (in), save, without.

Hosea 13

⁴ Yet **I am the LORD thy God** from the land of Egypt, and **thou shalt know no god but me**: for **there is no saviour beside me**.

Isaiah 46

⁹ Remember the former things of old: for I am **God**, and **there is none else**; I am **God**, and **there is none like me**,

1 Corinthians 8 ...no matter what the world says

⁵ For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be **gods many, and lords many**),

Exodus 20

³ Thou shalt have **no other gods before me**.

Exodus 34

¹⁴ For thou shalt **worship no other god**: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous **God**:

Deuteronomy 5

⁷ Thou shalt have **none other gods before me**.

Deuteronomy 6

¹⁴ **Ye shall not go after other gods**, of the **gods of the people which are round about you**;

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One Father

1 Corinthians 8

⁶ But **to US** there is but **one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him;** and **one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.**

Isaiah 43

⁹ Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

¹⁰ Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: **before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.**

¹¹ I, even I, am the LORD; and **beside me there is no saviour.**

Philippians 2

⁶ Who, being in the **form** of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

John 8

⁴¹ Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have **one Father, even God.**

Ephesians 4

⁴ There is **one body, and one Spirit,** even as ye are called in **one hope** of your calling;

⁵ **One Lord, one faith, one baptism,**

⁶ **One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**

John 10

³⁰ **I and my Father are one.**

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Good Conscience

1 Corinthians 8

⁷ Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour **eat it as a thing offered** unto an idol; and their **conscience being weak** is defiled.

1 Timothy 1

⁵ Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good **conscience**, and of faith unfeigned:

1 Timothy 3

⁹ Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure **conscience**.

1 Timothy 4

² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their **conscience** seared with a hot iron;

Titus 1

¹⁵ Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and **conscience** is defiled.

Hebrews 13

¹⁸ Pray for us: for we trust **we have a good conscience**, in all things **willing to live honestly**.

1 Peter 3

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

¹⁶ **Having a good conscience**; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

¹⁷ **For it is better**, if the will of God be so, that ye **suffer for well doing**, than for evil doing.

Church Matters: Good Conscience

Commendation

1 Corinthians 8 ...not diet

⁸ But meat **commendeth us not to God**: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.

Luke 16 ...not worldly wisdom

⁸ And the lord **commended** the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

2 Corinthians 3 ...not by ourselves or others

¹ Do we begin again to **commend ourselves**? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?

2 Corinthians 10 ...

¹² For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that **commend themselves**: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

2 Corinthians 3 ...the epistle of Christ manifest in the heart

² **Ye are our epistle** written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

³ Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

2 Corinthians 10

¹⁸ For **not he that commendeth himself is approved**, but whom **the Lord commendeth**.

Liberty

1 Corinthians 8

⁹ But **take heed** lest by any means this **liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak**.

2 Corinthians 3

¹⁷ Now the Lord is that Spirit: and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty**.

Psalms 119 ...seek

⁴⁵ And I will walk at **liberty**: for I seek thy **precepts**.

Precepts – [OT:6490](#) פְּקֻדָּוֹת **piquwd** (pik-kood'); or **piqud** (pik-kood'); from [OT:6485](#); properly, appointed, i.e. a mandate (of God; plural only, collectively, for the Law); **KJV** - commandment, precept, statute.

1 Peter 2

¹⁵ For so is the will of God, that **with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men**:

¹⁶ **As free**, and not **using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness**, but as the **servants of God**.

¹⁷ **Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.**

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1 Corinthians 8

¹⁰ For if any man see thee which hast knowledge **sit at meat in the idol's temple**, shall not the **conscience of him which is weak be emboldened** to eat those things which are offered to idols;

Galatians 5

¹³ For, brethren, ye have been called unto **liberty**; only **use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh**, but **by love serve one another**.

Romans 2

¹⁴ For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

¹⁵ Which **shew the work of the law written in their hearts**, their **conscience also bearing witness**, and **their thoughts the mean** while accusing or else excusing one another;)

¹⁶ In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Romans 12

¹⁰ **Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love**; in honour preferring one another;

Romans 13

⁸ Owe no man any thing, but to **love one another**: for **he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law**.

Romans 13

¹⁰ **Love worketh no ill to his neighbour**: therefore **love is the fulfilling of the law**.

Romans 14

¹ **Him that is weak** in the faith **receive ye**, but **not to doubtful disputations**.

² For **one believeth that he may eat all things**: **another, who is weak, eateth herbs**.

³ **Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not**; and let **not him which eateth not judge him that eateth**: for **God hath received him**.

Proverbs 15

¹⁷ Better is a dinner of herbs where **love is**, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

Romans 14

¹³ **Let us not therefore judge one another any more**: but judge this rather, that **no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way**.

¹⁴ **I know, and am persuaded** by the Lord Jesus, **that there is nothing unclean of itself**: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

¹⁵ But if thy brother be **grieved with thy meat**, now **walkest thou not charitably**. **Destroy not him with thy meat**, for whom Christ died.

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Compassionate

1 Corinthians 8

¹¹ And through thy **knowledge shall the weak brother perish**, for whom Christ died?

Isaiah 35

3 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

Ephesians 4

¹ I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

² **With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;**

³ **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

1 Peter 3

⁸ Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Consideration

1 Corinthians 8

¹² But when ye **sin** so against the **brethren**, and wound their **weak conscience**, ye sin against Christ.

Without Offense

1 Corinthians 8

¹³ Wherefore, **if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh** while the world standeth, **lest I make my brother to offend.**

1 Corinthians 9

²² To the **weak** became I as **weak**, that I might **gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.**

Romans 14

¹⁹ Let us therefore follow **after the things which make for peace**, and **things wherewith one may edify another.**

²⁰ **For meat destroy not the work of God.** All things indeed are pure; but **it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.**

²¹ **It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.**

Song of Solomon 1:2

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy **love is** better than wine.

²² Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. **Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.**

1 Thessalonians 5

¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.**

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1 Peter 1

²² Seeing ye have **purified your souls in obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto **unfeigned love of the brethren**, see that ye **love one another** with a **pure heart fervently**:

The end of the matter is this:

We ought to know the Word of God and grow in that knowledge and most certainly we should enjoy our liberty of Christ Jesus, but neither our knowledge nor our liberty ministers unto the edification of the saints if it is not ministered in love one toward another.

Our knowledge and liberty is not sufficient cause for us to live without consideration of the conscience of our brothers and sisters.

Rather, according to the Word, we should always please God extending His love toward one another.

Thereby, we express our knowledge and our liberty according to our conscience toward God and toward the saints.

Therefore, let us not consider our liberty to be our conscience, nor our conscience as our guide, but let us live a life in all good conscience considering the conscience of the brethren we love with all compassion, sincerely, with a pure heart fervently.

By this our conscience is guiltless and comforted by our love for God and for each other.

This is truly a church matter...