

Called to Be...Considerate Servants

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Introduction

- A. Sunday, January 16, 2012 – Celebrating a birthday at a family-friendly restaurant in Dearborn, Michigan.
- B. “I don’t care about you! It’s all about me and what I want! So stay out of my face and get out of my way!”
- C. Our sinful human nature continually wrestles with attitudes of arrogance and selfishness.

I. Isaiah’s Prophecy concerning Jesus

- A. Matthew 12:18 (Isaiah 42:1) – *“Behold, **my servant** whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.”*
- B. Matthew 12:19-21 (Isaiah 42:2-4) – *“He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; **a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench**, until he brings justice to victory; and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”*

II. The church in Corinth: A Model of _____ and _____

- A. The Issue: Was it permissible for Christians to consume meat offered up in pagan sacrifices?
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 8:4 – *Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”*
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 8:8 – *Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat [the meat], and no better off if we do.*
- B. The Concern: Just because the issue was a non-issue does not mean that there was no issue.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 8:7,9-12 – *...weak...*
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 8:7 – *...some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.*
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 8:10-11 – *For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.*
- C. The Question: Should a Christian be concerned about how their behavior impacts the lives of others?
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 8:9 – *But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.*
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 8:13 – *Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.*

III. Jesus Christ: A Model of _____ and _____

- A. Romans 15:1-2 – *We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.*
- B. Galatians 6:2 – *Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*
- C. 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 – *To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.*
- D. Philippians 2:3-8 – *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

Application

Martin Luther – *A Christian is the most free lord of all, and subject to none. A Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.*

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Going Deeper (January 28/29, 2012)

OPEN:

1. Reportedly, Mark Twain once said, "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can read." What insight does this provide you concerning the power of kindness?
2. Recall a time when someone's act of kindness impacted you?

DIG: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

1. What is the danger of knowledge? (v 1)
 - a. In your experience, what is the attitude of arrogance?
 - b. In your experience, what is the affect of arrogance?
2. What is the power of love? (v 1)
 - a. In your experience, what is the attitude of love?
 - b. In your experience, what is the affect of love?
3. What attribute is important in regards to knowledge? (v 2)
 - a. In your experience, what is the attitude of humility?
 - b. In your experience, what is the affect of humility?
4. How can one abuse their liberty in Christ? (vv 9-11)
 - a. In your experience, what is the attitude of insensitivity?
 - b. In your experience, what is the affect of insensitivity?
5. What happens if we sin against our fellow believers? (v 12)
6. How far should we be willing to go out of consideration for our fellow believers who are weak in faith? (v 13)
 - a. In your experience, what is the attitude of being considerate?
 - b. In your experience, what is the affect of being considerate?

REFLECT:

1. What Biblical examples do we have on kindness and being considerate?
2. Who are we to imitate?
3. When we show consideration and undeserved kindness, whose character is it we are imitating and why?
4. What should be our motivation when we display