



First Corinthians

Instructions to the Church

1 Corinthians 1:2 (NIV) To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours:

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

1 Corinthians 8:1-3 (NIV) ¹ Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But the man who loves God is known by God.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

I. Knowledge without love Puffs Up.

A. This is what we know.

1. We know there is one God. Vs.4-6

1 Corinthians 8:4-6 (NIV) 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

First Corinthians



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1. We know there is one God. Vs.4-6

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.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

I. Knowledge without love Puffs Up.

A. This is what we know.

2. We know there is freedom through this one God.

v.8, 10:25

1 Corinthians 8:8 (NIV) But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

I. Knowledge without love Puffs Up.

A. This is what we know.

2. We know there is freedom through this one God.

v.8, 10:25

1 Corinthians 10:25 (NIV) Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience,

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

I. Knowledge without love Puffs Up.

B. This is what we do not know.

1. That freedom comes with responsibly. V.9

1 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV) Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

I. Knowledge without love Puffs Up.

B. This is what we do not know.

2. That freedom without love is dangerous. vs.10-12

1 Corinthians 8:10-12 (NIV) ¹⁰ For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

I. Knowledge without love Puffs Up.

B. This is what we do not know.

2. That freedom without love is dangerous. vs.10-12

¹² When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

I. Knowledge without love Puffs Up.

B. This is what we do not know.

2. That freedom without love is dangerous. vs.10-12

(i) What is safe for one man may be quite unsafe for another.

First Corinthians



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I. Knowledge without love Puffs Up.

B. This is what we do not know.

2. That freedom without love is dangerous. vs.10-12

(ii) Nothing ought to be judged solely from the point of view of knowledge; everything ought to be judged from the point of view of love.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

I. Knowledge without love Puffs Up.

B. This is what we do not know.

2. That freedom without love is dangerous. vs.10-12

(iii) No man has any right to indulge in a pleasure or to demand a liberty which may be the ruination of someone else.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

A. It frees us to deny our freedoms.

1. Deny the freedom to eat whatever. v.13

1 Corinthians 8:13 (NIV) 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.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

A. It frees us to deny our freedoms.

2. Deny the freedom to receive support. 9:15

1 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV) But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me. I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

B. It frees us to look beyond ourselves.

1. To look at the effect it could have on others. **9:19, 10:24**

1 Corinthians 9:19 (NIV) Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

B. It frees us to look beyond ourselves.

1. To look at the effect it could have on others. **9:19, 10:24**

1 Corinthians 10:24 (NIV) Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

B. It frees us to look beyond ourselves.

2. To look at the effect it could have on God. 9:12, 10:31-33

1 Corinthians 9:12 (NIV) If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

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10:31-33

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 (NIV) ³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God--

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

B. It frees us to look beyond ourselves.

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10:31-33

³³ even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

B. It frees us to look beyond ourselves.

2. To look at the effect it could have on God. 9:12,
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*Augustine put it succinctly: “Man is most free
when controlled by God alone.”*

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

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2. To look at the effect it could have on God. 9:12,
10:31-33

2 Corinthians 5:11-15 (NIV) ¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

B. It frees us to look beyond ourselves.

2. To look at the effect it could have on God. 9:12, 10:31-33

¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

First Corinthians



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II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

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**2. To look at the effect it could have on God. 9:12,
10:31-33**

¹³ If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

First Corinthians



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¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

First Corinthians



Instructions to the Church

II. Knowledge with Love Builds Up

B. It frees us to look beyond ourselves.

2. To look at the effect it could have on God. 9:12,
10:31-33

³ But the man who loves God is known by God.

Matthew 7:20 (NIV) Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.



First Corinthians

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