

Am I not Free?
Loving concern for other Christians
1 Corinthians 8:4-13

Who are the other Christians I should be concerned for?

Understanding the principle:

Knowledge should build up, not puff up (vv1-3)

As to the eating of meat offered to idols... (v4a)

We know that an idol has no real existence (v4b)

There is no God but one (vv4c-6)

However, not all Christians possess this knowledge (v7)

Food will not commend us to God (v8)

Take care that this 'right' of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to a weak Christian (v9)

By your knowledge you can destroy a weaker Christian, for whom Christ died (vv10-11)

Sinning against your fellow Christians, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ (v12)

Therefore, if it makes another Christian stumble I will never eat meat (v13)

How do we know what people's weaknesses are?

Ways we can misunderstand or misuse the principle

Applying the principle (some real examples):

As a Christian...

'I'm free to eat meat...*but...*'

'I'm free to drink alcohol and go with my Christian friends to the pub...*but...*'

'I'm free to meet with my Christian friends to listen to music...*but...*'

'I'm free to use social media...*but...*'

'I'm free to play sport on a Sunday...*but...*'

'I'm free to let me kids go to parties on Sundays...*but...*'

'I'm free to watch films on my computer in my room late at night...*but...*'

'I'm free to go back to work after small group to get my work done...*but...*'

'I'm free to attend my friend's same-sex wedding...*but...*'

'I'm free to go away lots of weekends / holidays...*but...*'

'I'm free to spend a lot of money on my house, hobbies, clothes...*but...*'