



On Christian Liberty: The Danger of Pride
1 Corinthians 8
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I. Introduction

- A. What causes quarrels, strife and even church splits?
 - 1. Our own sinful, selfish passions - James 4:1-4
 - 2. Our own spiritual arrogance – in demanding our “rights” which in reality may be preferences.
 - a. Religious convictions/ideas about church life – you think things ought to be done a certain way.
 - b. Cultural preferences regarding gathered worship: i.e., music, clothing

- B. What if everyone demanded that everyone else see things like they see things? Demanded their “rights”?
 - 1. We would tear each other apart – example: political discourse today is all about rights!

II. Proposition

- A. True knowledge leads to a love for others which willingly forfeits personal rights to build up the body of Christ.

III. Exposition

- A. **Demand for personal rights is rooted in a distorted knowledge that leads to spiritual arrogance.**
 - 1. Distorted “knowledge” leads to spiritual arrogance (8:1).
 - a. Pride in theological beliefs – millennial views, etc.
 - b. Pride in Christian liberties: (some Christians flaunt such liberties)
 - 1). Example: alcohol, crude language, lewd TV, “R” rated movies, immodest clothing

 - 2. Those who embrace distorted “knowledge” are actually ignorant (8:2).
 - a. The strong in Corinth have orthodox “knowledge” but it’s distorted (8:4-5).
 - b. Paul corrects the Corinthian’s distorted/incomplete “knowledge” (8:6, 8).

 - 3. Distorted spiritual “knowledge,” coupled with pride is actually destructive to the weaker brother (8:7, 9-11).
 - a. Example: alcohol, crude language, lewd entertainment, immodest clothing (women)

 - 4. When we become a stumbling block because of spiritual pride, we sin against Christ (8:12)!

B. True knowledge leads to a love for others which willingly forfeits personal rights to build up the body.

1. While distorted “knowledge” puffs up, love builds up (8:1).
 - a. For Paul, the Christian life is one of faith working through love – see Love in Paul.
2. True knowledge – being known/loved by God – leads to love (8:3; 1 John 4:7-12)!
 - a. Love is THE distinguishing mark of a Christian (John 13:34-35)!
3. In love, we willingly forsake our personal rights in order to build up the body of Christ (8:13).
 - a. Theological beliefs:
 - b. Alcohol, entertainment, clothing . . .
 - 1). This is what we call at High Pointe, “Charity Beliefs” (see Romans 14:5-9, 13-23).

IV. Conclusion: If love, then, is THE mark of a Christian and a church, how should we practice such love at HP?

A. Two Questions should continually be on our minds:

1. Is it loving (Ephesians 4:15-16)?
 - a. Are my words, actions, loving?
2. Is it edifying (Romans 15:1-6)?
 - a. Are my words, actions edifying?

B. What are we to do when the body is not working? Or when I have not been loving or edifying?

1. Go and be reconciled.
2. Forgive one another.

C. How may we avoid spiritual arrogance which leads us to demand personal rights and look down on others (CJ)?

1. Admit you are the chief of sinners – saved by God’s amazing grace in the cross of Christ!
2. Look for and identify evidences of grace in others.
3. Encourage and serve others each and every day.
4. Invite and pursue correction.

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