

Taizé Bible Group on 13th August at 19:30

Zoom Link on: DASEIN.durchkreuzt.org/angebote

From the 1st letter of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Kor 8,1-13)

1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.

2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.

3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

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.”

5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—

6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.

9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

10 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?

11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.

12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Key message

For Christians there is no food offered to idols, because Christians don’t have idols, they believe in the one God and Jesus Christ as their Lord.

Paul warns to not judge and show up people, that eat food offered to idols and that are maybe not so sure which god they believe in.

Christians should search for knowledge and make their own conclusions without judging others, but look upon the community with love.

- *What do the sayings of Paul tell you for your daily life?*
- *What thoughts/questions do you take with you into the week?*

Bible Introduction

(leaned on: *Taizé – Meine Hoffnung und meine Freude. Bibeleinführungen von der Communauté de Taizé*)

In verse 1 it says: *“This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.”* This rule stays valid even though the question, that the people of the time of Paul asked themselves has made room for other questions today.

The Christians of Corinth had asked Paul, if it was allowed for them to take part in a meal in the space of a pagan temple. It was usual to celebrate important events in the space of the pagan temple and after a formal offering to share the formal offering-meal with family and friends. Very careful Christians even asked themselves, if they shouldn’t even do without meat consequently at home never really knowing if the meat that was sold on the market came from the pagan temple.

Paul takes this question really seriously, because it confuses the believers and splits the community. But he doesn’t answer with yes or no; that would support camp-forming. As apostle he is commissioned to gather, not to disperse.

At first, he remembers the knowledge of limbs of the church. He invites them, to think it through together with him and to then make one’s own judgement. Then he goes one step further. Every knowledge of faith shall lead to a deeper community. The one who proclaims to understand a cause better and tries to stand out against others, didn’t understand anything, *“he does not yet know as he ought to know.”* (verse 2) *“Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.”* (verse 12) Love would here know what to do to build community and not separate.

It is important, to be familiar with the content of faith. It lets us see, *“yet for us there is one God”* (verse 6). The creator gives us everything we need. But we only see this God, the Father, that revealed to us Jesus Christ, in the right and good way only if we avoid things that confuses other limbs of church or opens up new separations.