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# Knowledge, Idolatry, & Surrender

I Corinthians 8-9 | Week Six | Participant Guide

## Preparing for the Session

**Read:** I Corinthians 8:1-9:27

**Memorize:** “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.” - I Cor. 8:6

## Looking at the Text

### 8:1-13

1. Paul contrasts knowledge that “puffs up” with love that “builds up” (v. 1). What are some of the differences? Why do you think Paul is concerned with the character of the Corinthians?

2. What does Paul mean in verse 9? What steps can you take to avoid becoming a “stumbling block” to other Christians?

### 9:1-18

3. In this section Paul willingly gives up or surrenders certain rights he is entitled to as an apostle. Why does he give up these rights? How can you learn from his example?

### 9:19-23

4. What do you think Paul means when he says he has “become all things to all people” (v. 22)?

### 9:24-27

5. In pursuing your academic studies you are running a race. What disciplines are necessary to completing your course of study successfully? How do some of these disciplines also apply to the Christian life?

6. Paul writes that he doesn’t “run aimlessly.” This implies that he seeks to live with purpose. How can you live your Christian life more purposefully, both academically and in reference to your involvement with other Christians?

“[Paul] approached the question of meat offered to idols from three lines. First, how does this affect my own Christian life? Does it help or hinder? Second, what effect does it have on others? Does it encourage spiritual growth or decline? Finally, what effect does it have on my relationship to God? Is it useful to me? Is it helpful to others? Is it for the glory of God?”

Alfred Martin, *First Corinthians*

“Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people.”

1 Cor. 9:19, *The Message*

Mortimer J. Adler: 'True freedom is impossible without a mind made free by **discipline.**'