

Text: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Topic: Love. Sacrifice.  
Study: First Corinthians  
Week: 38  
Series: 1 of 4

Focal Point Radio Ministries  
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Pastor Mike

part 1

# Nice Guys Finish First

*Why You Feel Like a Loser When You Try to Be Nice*



1. Think \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.4-6, 8)

**Question →**

2. Think \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.7, 9-12)

**Question →**

3. Decide \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.1-3, 13)

**Resolve →**

## 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup> Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup> But the man who loves God is known by God. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is 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. <sup>7</sup> But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. <sup>8</sup> But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. <sup>9</sup> Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> 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? <sup>11</sup> So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup> When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> 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. (NIV)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. Describe a situation when you were a new Christian (or even a non-Christian) and observed the actions of a Christian doing something that made you question the reality or sincerity of his or her walk with Christ, even though you realize now the activity wasn't specifically prohibited in the Bible.
2. In what aspects of life has your increased knowledge of the Bible and the Christian life freed your conscience to participate in biblically allowable activities which you would have felt guilty about as a brand new Christian?
3. Consider the following categories and list the things that are true of you which could potentially "trip someone up" were they to see them or learn of them:
  - Questionable Habits:
  - Questionable Vocabulary:
  - Questionable Associations/Relationships:
  - Questionable Purchases:
  - Questionable Recreation:
4. In your circle of friends and associates, think of those individuals who are young in their faith or easily mislead. Write out a prayer that expresses your commitment to love them and set a good example for them.

What freedoms in your life need to be curtailed or denied for the sake of those you love?

*We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.*

**Sunday**

*Is. 5-6 & 1Cor. 2*

**Monday**

*Is. 7-8 & 1Cor. 3*

**Tuesday**

*Is. 9-10 & 1Cor. 4*

**Wednesday**

*Is. 11-12 & 1Cor. 5*

**Thursday**

*Is. 13-14 & 1Cor. 6*

**Friday**

*Is. 15-16 & 1Cor. 7*

**Saturday**

*Is. 17-18 & 1Cor. 8*

*Here are some resources which may help you understand and implement the truths presented in this week's sermon.*

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. **The Cost of Discipleship**. SCM Press Ltd., 1959.

Carson, D. A. **Love in Hard Places**. Crossway Books, 2002.

Fisk, Bruce N. "Eating Meat Offered to Idols" *Trinity Journal* 10 (1989): 49-70.

Foxe, John. **Foxe's Book of Martyrs**. The John C. Winston Co., 1926.

Hefley, James and Marti. **By Their Blood: Christian Martyrs of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**. Baker Books, 1996.

McKeehan, Toby and Mark Heimermann. **Jesus Freaks: Stories of Those Who Stood for Jesus**. Albury Publishing, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_. **Jesus Freaks Volume 2: Stories of Revolutionaries Who Changed Their World**. Bethany House, 2002.

Shelly, Marshall. **Well-Intentioned Dragons: Ministering to Problem People**. Word Books, 1985.

Still III, E. Coye. "The Meaning and Uses of ΕΙΔΩΛΟΦΑΓΙΑ (Idol Food)" *Trinity Journal* 23NS (2002): 225-234.

Swindoll, Charles. **Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living**. Reprint. Word, 2002.

Water, Mark, ed. **The New Encyclopedia of Christian Martyrs**. Baker Books, 2001.