

LIFE GROUP

Notes

Session 6



READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

IN Introduction

In his devotional introduction (Message version), Eugene Peters describes Paul's discipleship theme of 1 Corinthians as "How to live out this new life as a community of believers ... by working all the glorious details of God's saving love into their love for one another".

What are some areas of life and faith which might be understood as freedom for some Christians in participate in, but something to avoid by others?

Pick one area and discuss the following: For those who have a sense of freedom - is it better to avoid these areas, exercise your own freedom regardless or something else?

UP Explore

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

People who were convinced they had the right answers were throwing their weight around. Family (church) life was becoming less free. Everyone needs to be able to express doubts without being criticised.

- 1- What is the problem when we think we know something? Vs 1-3
- 2- For those Christians who see no problem in eating food sacrificed to idols, what is the case that Paul makes in support of that reasoning? Vs 4-6
- 3- Do you agree that one person's liberty or rights can be responsible for someone else's loss of freedom? V 9
- 4- Can you think of a time when someone else's liberty or rights has limited your own freedom? How did this feel? How would you respond in hindsight?
- 5- What is the case that Paul makes that this is the case? V 10
- 6- What did Christ give up for our sisters and brothers? V 11, 12
- 7- What conclusion does Paul come to, as to how he is going to behave in the matter of eating meat? V 13

See also Romans Chapter 14, which is about principles of conscience within the church. Let's now think creatively about how we can build up particular brothers and sisters in Christ, first by reflecting privately. Then, without naming individuals, share together the sort of needs that people have, and what might help.

OUT Impact

Those who do not know God's loving acceptance of them need to experience His grace through us. How can we follow the Jesus way of treating those on the outside? Ask the Lord to bring to mind your unsaved contacts and how you can encourage them.