

## **Day 1: Knowledge Isn't Enough**

### **Devotional**

It feels good to be right. There is something deeply satisfying about knowing the correct answer, holding the informed opinion, or standing on solid theological ground. And yet, if you have ever been on the receiving end of someone who was right but not kind, you know how hollow that victory can feel. In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul is writing to a church that was divided over food. Some believers understood that idols held no real power, so eating meat sacrificed to them was no big deal. They were correct. But Paul does not celebrate their correctness. Instead, he warns them. Their knowledge, without love, was doing damage. Here is the thing about knowledge: it can quietly become a wall between you and the people you are supposed to care for. When we lead with what we know rather than who we love, we can wound people without ever realizing it. Paul is not asking anyone to abandon truth. He is asking us to carry truth gently, with both hands, wrapped in love. Because knowledge alone can make us proud, but love is what actually builds something lasting in another person. You may be the most informed person in the room. That is a gift. But it is only useful when it is guided by genuine care for the people around you. Being right and being loving are not opposites, but love must always lead.

### **Bible Verse**

*"So, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble." - 1 Corinthians 8:13*

### **Reflection Question**

Is there a relationship in your life where your need to be right has quietly taken priority over your desire to love well?

### **Quote**

*"This knowledge puffs up, but love builds up."*

### **Prayer**

Lord, soften my heart where knowledge has made me proud. Teach me to hold truth with humility and to lead every conversation with love. Amen.

## **Day 2: The Danger of Always Being the Stronger One**

### **Devotional**

When we read about the "weaker brother" in 1 Corinthians 8, most of us instinctively assume we are the stronger one. We are the mature believer, the one with understanding, the one who has to be patient with others. It rarely crosses our minds that we might be the one in need of grace. That assumption is worth examining. Because the moment we place ourselves permanently in the role of the strong, we stop being teachable. We stop being vulnerable. And we stop seeing the ways our choices might be affecting the people around us. Strength is not a bad thing. But unchecked strength, strength without awareness, can cause real harm. Paul makes this clear: when you wound someone's conscience through the exercise of your freedom, you are not just hurting them. You are sinning against Christ. That is a sobering thought. The people in our lives are not obstacles to our

freedom. They are image-bearers of God, and how we treat them reflects how we regard Him. Today, consider the possibility that you might be the one who needs to receive grace as much as give it. That posture, humble and open, is not weakness. It is the beginning of real wisdom. Encouragement comes not from always being strong, but from being honest about where we need help.

### **Bible Verse**

*"Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience, when it is weak, you sin against Christ." - 1 Corinthians 8:12*

### **Reflection Question**

When did you last genuinely consider that you might be the one in need of grace rather than the one extending it?

### **Quote**

*"When we read this text, do you know what position we automatically put ourselves into? We automatically put ourselves into the position of the stronger brother. We very rarely, if ever read ourselves into the position of the weaker, of the one in need of help."*

### **Prayer**

Father, humble me where pride has taken root. Help me to see myself honestly and to remain open to the grace You offer through others. Amen.

## **Day 3: Freedom Is Not the Finish Line**

### **Devotional**

We live in a world that celebrates personal freedom. The ability to do what you want, when you want, with little interference, is treated as one of the highest goods. And in many ways, freedom is a gift. But Paul challenges us to ask a harder question: freedom for what? In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul is not telling believers they are wrong to have freedom. He is telling them that freedom is not the finish line. It is a starting point. The real question is what you do with it, and whether the way you use it is building up the people around you or tearing them down. Think about the people you love most. A parent does not simply exercise every right they have in front of their children without considering the impact. A good friend does not demand their preferences be honored at the expense of the relationship. Love naturally shapes how we use our freedom. Paul calls us to that same posture with every believer around us. You are called to prioritize the thriving of the people in your life as if they were your own family. That is not a burden. That is a beautiful picture of what community is supposed to look like. Your freedom matters. But the people around you matter more. Let love be the guide.

### **Bible Verse**

*"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." - 1 Corinthians 10:13*

### **Reflection Question**

Is there a freedom or preference you are currently holding onto that might be costing someone around you more than you realize?

### **Quote**

*"If you are prioritizing your liberties, you are forgetting the love."*

### **Prayer**

God, give me the wisdom to use my freedom well. Help me to see the people around me clearly and to choose love over personal preference. Amen.

## **Day 4: The Strength Found in Letting Go**

### **Devotional**

Letting go of something you have every right to hold onto is one of the hardest things a person can do. It feels counterintuitive. It can even feel unfair. But this is exactly what Paul calls believers to in 1 Corinthians 8, and it is exactly what Jesus modeled for us. Philippians 2 describes Jesus, who was all-powerful, all-knowing, and fully God, choosing to set aside His glory. He did not demand His rights. He did not insist on being recognized. He emptied Himself, took on human form, and went to a cross for people who did not deserve it. That is not weakness. That is the most extraordinary act of strength in all of history. When we surrender a freedom for the sake of someone we love, we are not losing. We are reflecting the character of Christ. We are saying, with our actions, that this person matters more to me than being right or being comfortable. Most of the deep hurts people carry were not caused by someone who was wrong. They were caused by someone who was strong, certain, and did not stop to love. You have the opportunity to be different. Surrendering a preference is not defeat. In the hands of a loving God, it becomes one of the most powerful things you can offer another person.

### **Bible Verse**

*"So, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble." - 1 Corinthians 8:13*

### **Reflection Question**

What is one freedom or preference you could willingly set aside this week, not because you are wrong, but because someone you love needs you to?

### **Quote**

*"The one who was all powerful, the strongest, the one who is all knowing, the wisest, the one who was all present, Jesus Christ, determined to become weak, to set aside what he had, who He was, and to condescend from heaven to earth to be with people who thought they knew better than Him."*

### **Prayer**

Jesus, thank You for the example of surrender You gave us. Give me the courage to lay down my preferences for the sake of others, just as You laid down Your life for me. Amen.

## **Day 5: Love Is the Highest Calling**

## **Devotional**

After four days of sitting with this idea, it comes down to something beautifully simple. We are not primarily called to be right. We are called to love. That does not mean truth does not matter. It does. But truth without love is just noise. Paul makes clear throughout 1 Corinthians 8 that the goal of the Christian life is not to win arguments or exercise every freedom available to us. It is to reflect the love of Christ in everything we do. Think about the relationships in your life right now. The ones that are strained, the ones where tension lingers, the ones where you have been holding your ground. Ask yourself honestly: am I prioritizing being right, or am I prioritizing love? You can be correct in your argument and still be wrong in your heart. You can hold the better position and still lose the person standing in front of you. Love is what keeps people. Love is what heals. Love is what builds. This is the invitation for your life going forward. Let your knowledge be shaped by love. Let your freedom be guided by wisdom. And in every relationship, in every conversation, in every moment of tension, choose the most Christlike thing available to you. Choose love. You are not called to be the strongest in the room. You are called to be the most loving.

## **Bible Verse**

*"Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience, when it is weak, you sin against Christ." - 1 Corinthians 8:12*

## **Reflection Question**

Looking at your closest relationships, where is love being crowded out by the need to be right, and what would it look like to change that today?

## **Quote**

*"You could be right in your argument, in your belief, but if you lose love in your rightness, then you are wrong."*

## **Prayer**

Lord, make me a person who loves well. May everything I know and everything I do be shaped by the love You have shown me, so that others see You in how I live. Amen.