

Knowledge and Love. 1 Corinthians 8:1

Introduction:

Misuse of knowledge seen throughout rest of 1 Corinthians

Chap 8	8:9 Beware this liberty becoming stumbling block to the weak
Chap 9	9:20-22 Jew/ weak became weak that I might by all means save some
Chap 10	10:23 All things lawful, not all helpful, all things lawful, but not all things edify
Chap 11	11:33 Lord supper: wait for one another
Chap 12	12:4 Diversities of gifts, one spirit (body)
Chap 13	13:2 all prophecy & knowledge, no love profits nothing
Chap 14	14:12 Zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for edification of church that you seek to excel.

I. Knowledge and Service

Knowledge without love leads to intellect (you are so smart!)
knowledge with love leads to humility and obligation.

1 Cor. 9:20-23 Became all things to all men that I might save some.

Rom. 1:14 Obligation both to Greeks and Barbarians, both to wise and foolish that I might save some.

II. Knowledge and Liberty

Knowledge only leads to lack of consideration for others

1 Co 8:1-3 Food sacrificed to idols: cheap food or false worship?

Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. 2 And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

1 Cor 8:4-6. Knowledge says only one God: eat the meat

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one

Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

1 Cor. 8:7-8. Not everyone has knowledge, about people not food
7 However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

1 Cor. 8:9-13 Your knowledge leads a good thing to be sin

9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a [c]stumbling block to those who are weak. 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? 11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? 12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble

III. Knowledge and Love

A. Considering weaker members

Don't speak above other people. Communicate on their level
Even when they are wrong, lead them gently (shepherd them)
Example of a house repair shoring up a foundation

B. Understand how people learn

Abstract (facts and figures) few learn from concepts alone
(Plan of salvation)

Concrete:

1. People: what people I respect believe (but all flawed)
Mt. 12:20 He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick
2. A habit or experience: this is where I felt worship, life
1 Cor. 8:13 I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall

C. Avoid Exploitation

Some desire to make themselves look great
Good preaching is not in eloquence, but in changed lives

1 Cor. 10:31-11:1 Whatever you do do it to the glory of God. Seek to please all men, follow me as I follow Christ.