



Daily Verse and Comment

1 Corinthians 8:9-13

(9) But beware, lest this freedom of yours becomes a stumbling block to those who are weak. (10) For if anyone sees you, who have knowledge, sitting to eat in an idol temple, will not his weak conscience be emboldened so as to *cause him* to eat things sacrificed to idols? (11) And will the weak brother, for whom Christ died, perish on *account of* your knowledge? (12) Now when you sin against the brethren and wound their weak consciences in this way, you are sinning against Christ. (13) Therefore, if meat causes my brother to stumble, I will eat no flesh—not ever—so that I may not cause my brother to stumble.

A Faithful Version

The apostle Paul was fully aware that others studied and imitated his example, so he was very careful about how he appeared to the members of the church. [1 Corinthians 8:9-13](#) contains a fine example of his circumspect living.

The overall subject of this passage is meat offered to idols. After sacrificing an animal in the temples, the pagan priests often sold the surplus meat to local merchants, who included it along with other meat at his stall in the marketplace. Some felt that meat was meat, and since there is only one true [God](#), the meat offered to a man-made image was perfectly fine to eat. Others who were new in the [faith](#) or more sensitive to issues of spiritual contamination, believed that to eat such meat placed them in fellowship with—and they were thus defiled by—the false god, a demon, to which it had been offered.

Verse 10 shows that some Christians would even eat meat *in* the pagan temple! The new or sensitive Christian, seeing this—and perhaps having

recently rejected that false religion—would suffer a weakening of his conscience or his faith. In an extreme case, he might even return to his paganism and be lost (verse 11)!

Paul, however, provides the correct example in verses 12-13. Notice the apostle's starting point: Such a [sin](#) against a brother in [Christ](#) is a sin against Christ Himself! It is that serious! However "legal" eating the meat might be under [God's law](#), the more important point is that the effect of one's actions on a brother's character takes precedence. Paul's conclusion, then, is that he would never even give the appearance of sin if it would harm a brother in the faith.

Is this not the love of God in action? [God's love](#) manifests itself in thoughts, words, and deeds of care and concern for our brethren ([I John 4:7-11](#), 21-5: 1). It should be our motivation in walking circumspectly, setting a right example and never giving even a hint of evil in our way of life. If we do these things, to our amazement we will prove to be the salt of the earth and the light of [the world](#)!

— John O. Reid

To learn more, see:
[Abstaining From Evil](#)

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