

**Life Group/Bible Study Questions**  
**Week following 01/02/25: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**  
**The right use of rights**

**Introduction: Paul explores how Christian freedom must be shaped by love, reminding believers that what we know matters less than how our actions affect others.**

**Looking Back:** Last week we shared about people we would love to see take steps closer to Jesus. Share about any opportunities you have had over the past week to share or demonstrate your faith.

**Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, then answer the following questions:**

- a. ***“Church buys pub to spread the gospel”*** (Premier Christian News, 09/08/17); ***“Pints and Prayers: The Church That’s Brewing Faith In A Pub”*** (Religion Unplugged, 05/08/25); ***“To drink or not to drink? Christians differ on question”*** (Christian Chronicle, 20/12/19) Some see pub-based outreach as a healthy expression of freedom; others find it deeply uncomfortable, perhaps even a stumbling block. How do you react to the idea? And what does loving one another well look like when believers disagree on issues like this?
- b. (v1) ***“Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.”*** Have you ever felt discouraged or intimidated by someone else’s display of Scriptural knowledge? Where have you seen someone use their knowledge in a way that builds others up rather than intimidates? What does this look like?
- c. (v8) ***“But food does not bring us near to God...”*** Why do we often attach spiritual value to things that don’t actually bring us closer to God? What modern Christian habits or preferences might fall into this category?
- d. ***“You don’t have to eat halal meat’, C of E schools told”*** (The Christian Institute, 17/02/11); ***“Now about food sacrificed to idols...”*** Halal meat comes from animals slaughtered in keeping with Islamic laws: *“The slaughterer must say “Bismillah, Allahu Akbar”* (In the name of Allah, Allah is the Greatest) at the time of slaughter (Quran 5:3). Should Christians eat such meat? Suppose a Muslim neighbour kindly offers you a (halal) chicken curry? How does Paul’s teaching help us here?
- e. (v13) ***“Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.”*** Our culture asks, *“Is this ok for me?”* Paul asks, *“Is this loving for us?”* He frames sacrifice as a willing choice, not a rule. How does that change the way we think about giving something up for the sake of others? Can you think of any modern parallels?
- f. One of our church values is being ***Relational — loving and serving others across generations and cultures.*** As a diverse fellowship, we come from many backgrounds and traditions. While our wider culture prizes personal freedom, Paul emphasises relational responsibility. How might his words challenge us as a church?

**Prayer**

- a. Thank God for calling us into a community where love matters more than being right.
- b. Pray that we might learn to use our freedoms in ways that build others up.