

Sacrificing Personal Rights Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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Key Truth: I show my love for God when I sacrifice my person rights on behalf of a fellow-believer.

The only way a Christian can meet the holy standards of God's Word is through the "Word of the Cross," which is folly to those who are perishing, but wisdom to God (1 Corinthians 1:18). Infused with this gospel message, we can live our lives for God's glory no matter how difficult the demands. One such way is in the exercise of our personal rights. These rights are good and have been granted to us by God. But, there are times when love demands that we set our rights aside for the sake of another believer's spiritual health.

DISCUSS

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **Sacrificing Personal Rights**.

DIG IN

1. The Source of our Personal Rights. (vv. 1-6)

Some in the Corinthian church were claiming their right to eat certain foods on the basis of their knowledge—they felt they were enlightened and more knowledgeable than others. What might this "knowledge" have been, and why could that have made them "puffed up?"

Why is love a better paradigm for exercising our rights than knowledge?

In what ways is it important that we recognize our Rights come solely from God?

2. The potential for Sin in exercising our Personal Rights. (vv. 7-12)

Even though some Corinthians realized that Idols are just blocks of wood and stone, others, coming out of Roman paganism, were more sensitive. In what ways should the Corinthians addressed this in the church?

Read verses 9-10: In what ways could a Christian cause another believer to stumble in their Christian walk?

Share with the group a 21st-century example of one Christian causing another believer to stumble through the exercise of their personal rights.

3. The loving Restraint of our Personal Rights. (v. 13)

In what ways is Paul acting in love, according to verse 13?

Why is it important that he make this decision himself, rather than have it mandated of him?

DO

Take the time to pray briefly as a group for the wisdom and power to help other believers avoid stumbling in their Christian walk.