

AND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS

GRAY AREAS

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Jeff Schreve

Now concerning things sacrificed to idols ... 1 Corinthians 8:1

What does the Bible have to say about those gray areas?

1. Concerning gray areas, knowledge is important.

Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. 1 Corinthians 8:1

A. Knowledge says idols are nothing.

Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. 1 Corinthians 8:4

B. Knowledge says this gray area is not inherently wrong.

But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. 1 Corinthians 8:8

C. Knowledge says the weaker is the one who struggles.

However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. 1 Corinthians 8:7

2. Concerning gray areas, love is more important.

But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

A. Love gives proper balance to knowledge.

But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ. Ephesians 4:15

B. The more you love God, the more you love His children.

*Everyone who loves the Father loves His children, too.
1 John 5:1 NLT*

- C. The more you love God, the more you want to see His children grow spiritually.

But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 1 Corinthians 8:9

- D. The more you love God, the more sensitive you are to sin.

*For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, **you sin against Christ.** 1 Corinthians 8:11-12*

- E. The more you love God, the more willing you are to sacrifice your liberties because of love.

*Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.
1 Corinthians 8:13*

A Checklist for Gray Areas:

1. Does this activity glorify God? (1 Cor. 10:31)
2. Will this activity help me grow spiritually? (1 Cor. 6:12)
3. Will this activity become my master? (1 Cor. 6:12)
4. Will this activity cause another to stumble? (1 Cor. 8:13)