

The Right to Release Your Rights

1 Corinthians 8

May 17, 2026 | Pastor Michael Foster

- The priority of love (vv. 1-3)
- The reality of liberty (vv. 4-8)
- The Christlike choice: your brothers and sisters over your rights and preferences (vv. 9-13)

FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 8:13
- Take the Love Inventory - bit.ly/LoveInventory
- Read Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:5-11, Romans 14, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
- Read "Giving Up our Rights" – bit.ly/GivingUpourRights
- Read "Winning by Losing" – bit.ly/WinningbyLosing
- Read about Christian liberty – bit.ly/Christianliberty1
- Read about how to disagree lovingly with other Christians – bit.ly/12DisagreewithChristians
- Listen to "Love of God" – bit.ly/LoveofGod2
- Listen to "We Need Each Other" – bit.ly/WeNeedEachOther3
- Read *Life Together* by Bonhoeffer
- Read *If* by Carmichael

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you the most from the message?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-3. We noted how the Corinthians had a lot of good questions. Do you have any lingering questions about the Christian faith or the Bible? Do you feel like you have space to ask such questions? (Feel free to ask right now!)
3. What are some ways you have seen "knowledge puff up" and "love build up"?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. How do these qualities of love function to "build up" rather than "puff up"? Which of these qualities of love have you been especially built up by as others have loved you?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 8:4-8. Paul says we are no worse or better if we eat certain foods. What are some things today that we make into a bigger deal than they are? What are some things we are tempted to judge ourselves or others by that are really no measure of true spirituality in God's eyes?
6. Share about a time when your conscience or conviction has been different from that of another mature believer in Christ. What does it mean that mature Christians can disagree on certain things? Is this something that should encourage us or discourage us?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 8:9-13. What are some specific ways that someone acting on their rights or prioritizing their preferences might create problems for others? Has this ever happened to you?
8. How is the idea that we should consider others in our choices so radically different than the "individualism" of our culture today?
9. What are some "rights" or preferences you have given up in order to better love and serve your brothers and sisters in Christ? Are there any that others have given up for you?
10. Read Philippians 2:1-11. What impresses you the most about the ways in which Jesus gave up himself to love us? What is one practical way you can be more like Christ in this area?

