

Wednesday March 18 ~ Love is the Remedy ~ 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Zac Brown penned the words “love is the remedy” for his song Remedy. They ring so true in this Scripture. From God’s love for us to our love for our neighbor - and completing the circle, the body of Christ’s love for our Lord and Savior. As mature Christians, we should emulate Jesus in our actions and words. Everyone is watching and waiting to learn. Although knowledge is power, love is the remedy.

God gave us free will with the expectation that we would learn and grow and bring the less- mature Christians alongside us to mentor and love, not to be a stumbling block with our humanness. Why is something so easy (to love one another) so hard? For our salvation, it is the remedy; not good deeds. When you look at your brother or sister, remember that he or she was created in God’s image. Whether it is a family member, a homeless person, or the driver that cut you off in traffic, God created them all in His image. If you love God, you can’t help but love your brother.

Zac Brown so beautifully sings, “love is the remedy.” As we go through our days, let’s look for ways to share God’s love with everyone we encounter.

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Concerning Food Sacrificed to Idols

8 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. ²Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. ³But whoever loves God is known by God.^[a]

⁴So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” ⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), ⁶yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

⁷But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

⁹Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol’s temple, won’t that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹²When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, 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.

Footnotes:

- a. **1 Corinthians 8:3** An early manuscript and another ancient witness *think they have knowledge do not yet know as they ought to know.* ³*But whoever loves truly knows.*