

Small Group Leader's Guide
"Is it Okay" to be Okay with Each Other?
1 Corinthians 8

Introduction: In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul addresses yet another question posed to him by the Corinthians ("Now concerning things sacrificed to idols."). At first glance, this issue seems far removed from our own circumstances. Unless we live in a place like India we are not often confronted with the issue of meat sacrificed to idols. But in addressing the presenting issue in the Corinthian's situation, Paul communicates principles that are relevant for us today in our own "Is it okay for a Christian to _____" situations. Hopefully this study will help each of us live out these principles more consistently in our lives.

Opening Question: Lowell posed the question, "Is it okay for a Christian to _____?" What kinds of things are often put into that blank?

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

1. What seems to be the question that the Corinthians had asked Paul?
2. Lowell said that this passage is not really about food sacrificed to idols, but that it is about knowledge and love. How so?
3. What is the knowledge of which Paul speaks about in this passage?
4. How does Paul counsel the Corinthians to regard food sacrificed to idols?
5. What are the "categories" of people that Paul talks about in this passage? How would you describe each of them?
6. What kind of liberty does Paul say that the Corinthians had?
7. The "Is it okay for a Christian to _____" kinds of issues have sometimes been called grey areas. How would you define what falls into the category of a grey area?

8. Why do grey areas sometimes cause such difficulties in our relationships with other Christians?
9. What truths/principles come out of this passage that we can apply to grey areas and our relationships with other believers?

Lowell said:

A mature Christian is someone who exercises his or her freedom, in conscience, with love.

10. What do you think of this definition of maturity?
11. What are some practical applications of what Paul teaches in this passage?