



Part 7: *Knowing the Way of Love*

The next major area about which the Corinthians had questions concerned food offered to idols. This problem arose because almost all the meat sold in the market at that time came from pagan sacrifices.

-- Dacholom Datiri, *Africa Bible Commentary*

Can it be wrong for one believer to watch R-rated movies but alright for another to do so? Or for one to observe the Sabbath but not for another? Or for one to drink alcoholic beverages? And so on. Paul's arguments in these chapters are crucial for sorting through these kinds of issues.

-- D. A. Carson, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary*

Paul is not content with offering simple rules, a set of dos and don'ts to guide the Corinthians through the difficulties of living as people of the true God. He wants them to be able to think through the issues for themselves.

-- N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone*

Love is Paul's most important concept in describing how believers rightly relate to one another. Love is not just a sentiment, not just a feeling, not merely a sort of disposition. Love works; it acts; it does things; and the chief thing it does is to edify, build up, cause growth in each of the persons who engages in it and who is engaged by it.

-- J. Paul Sampley, *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

For Paul, believers are not only responsible for themselves and their actions; they are responsible for each other and the way their deeds set examples for others.

-- J. Paul Sampley, *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

True knowledge consists not in the accumulation of so much data, nor even in the correctness of one's theology, but in the fact that one has learned to live in love toward all.

-- Gordon D. Fee, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*

Paul is insisting that just because one knows something does not give one license to act. Before action one must ask: "Is this loving? Does it build up the body of Christ?" Salvation is fleshed out not in self-helping actions, but in self-sacrificial actions.

-- Ben Witherington III, *Conflict & Community in Corinth: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*

For Paul, community is primary and what is good for community should guide conduct.

-- Ben Witherington III, *Conflict & Community in Corinth: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*

When knowledge is without love, it lifts men up to absolute arrogance.

-- John Chrysostom (c. 349–407)

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

-- **The Apostle Paul (Philippians 2:4)**