



**I. God wants us to use our \_\_\_\_\_ about Him to live for Him. (8:1-13)**

*Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. 8:1-3*

- A. Knowledge of God gives us \_\_\_\_\_ to live by His truth. (8:4-6)
- B. Knowledge of God does not give us \_\_\_\_\_ to flaunt our freedoms. (8:7-10)
- C. Knowledge of God leads us to love others by \_\_\_\_\_ our freedom. (8:11-13)

FIRST CORINTHIANS 8-9

Where Freedom Ends

**PAUL'S PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF LIMITING HIS FREEDOM (9:1-23)**

1. *He forfeited certain rights in order to focus on God's calling (9:4-6)*
2. *He endured the maturation processes of others so no stumbling block would come between them and Christ (9:12b)*
3. *He met people where they were rather than expecting them to be where he was (9:22-23)*

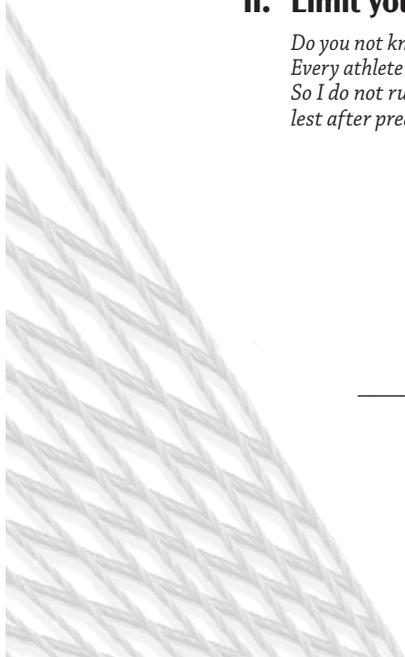
**II. Limit your earthly freedom for an \_\_\_\_\_ reward. (9:1-23)**

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. 9:24-26*

\_\_\_\_\_ to run your race intentionally for God.

\_\_\_\_\_ yourself, remembering that what is permissible is not always beneficial.

\_\_\_\_\_ yourself certain freedoms to help fellow racers so you don't disqualify them or yourself.



# UNDIVIDED

## DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

1. Read 1 Corinthians 8–9. Some of the strongest debates among Christians are about practices that some feel to be wrong but that are not specifically forbidden in Scripture. It's not that those may not be important, but we can't speak as authoritatively about them as we can the things which Scripture plainly forbids as sinful, or "black and white." What are some black-and-white behaviors specifically forbidden in Scripture?
2. Many behaviors, however, are not specifically forbidden in Scripture but are considered "gray areas." What are some examples of these gray areas?
3. What are some rights and freedoms you enjoy as a Christian? Under what circumstances are you free to use them, and when should you not?
4. How can knowledge make us arrogant? How can we avoid arrogance even as we study Scripture and increase our knowledge of God?
5. Paul tells mature believers not to focus on our freedom but on the spiritual needs of the less mature. *Your own freedom should be limited by your love for fellow believers.* How can you practice grace and love for others instead of demanding your own rights?
6. Corinthians were avid sports fans, and the Isthmian games they sponsored hosted the best athletes in the Empire. A competitor would strictly train for months, avoiding not only sinful things but even lawful ones that might hamper their performance. In what ways should you be in "strict training" (9:25, 27) in your walk with Christ?



### DEACON & ELDER ELECTIONS TODAY

Per the Constitution, a members-only congregational vote by ballot will be taken today to affirm nominations for Deacon and Elder candidates.



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to review the candidates. (Please note: this is not a link to the voting ballot.)

If you believe you are a constitutional member of Christ Chapel but you did not receive an email link to the ballot, paper ballots are available for your use today. All voting must be completed by 12:30 p.m.

Election results will be announced at Christ Chapel's Annual Meeting, which takes place in the Sanctuary on the Fort Worth Campus today at 1 p.m.

### EXERCISE FOR THIS WEEK

**Train yourself to focus on love and grace as you enjoy your Christian liberties.**

In deciding about whether or not to participate in any behavior that is doubtful, the following principles make a good checklist to follow.

**Excess.** Is the activity or habit necessary, or is it merely an extra that is not really important? Is it perhaps only an encumbrance that we should willingly give up (*Heb 12:1*)?

**Expediency.** "All things are lawful for me," Paul says, "but not all things are profitable," or expedient (*1 Cor 6:12*). Is what I want to do helpful and useful, or only desirable?

**Emulation.** "The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked" (*1 Jn 2:6*). If we are doing what Christ would do, our action not only is permissible but good and right.

**Example.** Are we setting the right example for others, especially for weaker brothers and sisters? If we emulate Christ, others will be able to emulate us, to follow our example (*1 Tim 4:12*).

**Evangelism.** Is my testimony going to be helped or hindered? Will unbelievers be drawn to Christ or turned away from Him by what I am doing? Will it help me conduct myself "with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity" (*Col 4:5*)?

**Edification.** Will I be built up and matured in Christ; will I become spiritually stronger? "All things are lawful, but not all things edify" (*1 Cor 10:23*).

**Exaltation.** Will the Lord be lifted up and glorified in what I do? God's glory and exaltation should be the supreme purpose behind everything we do. "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (*1 Cor 10:31*).

Adapted from John MacArthur's *New Testament Commentary on 1 Corinthians*

### COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/events](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/events). That's a great spot to see what's coming up!

**COLLEGE WORSHIP STARTS TODAY, AUG. 29.** College students, welcome back to Fort Worth! We cannot wait to see you at Common Grounds (3110 Greene Ave.) for worship. Services happen at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Tell your friends and join us then!

**RENOVATE LIVE IS BACK THIS WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1.** Young adults, the wait is over—Renovate Live is back for a night of worship this week. Meet us on Wednesday at 6 p.m. for dinner and then worship at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Never been before? Come try it out and let us welcome you in! Learn more at [www.renovateftw.org](http://www.renovateftw.org).

**MEN, SIGN UP FOR BAND OF BROTHERS THIS FALL.** Men's Ministry is looking forward to gathering for a new series, "Thy Kingdom Come" starting in September. The study will trace the theme of the kingdom of God throughout the Bible and answer some of the tough questions that inevitably come with studying Jesus and the kingdom. Band of Brothers is a place to grow with a community of guys. Sign up at [www.ccbcfamily.org/men](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/men).

**LADIES, JOIN WOMEN IN THE WORD FOR A NEW STUDY!** It seems we are always looking for something better. We add, embellish and supplement, but the author of Hebrews tells us Jesus alone is better than anyone or anything! Join the women of Christ Chapel in September and discover the encouragements that will enable you to confidently say Jesus alone is greater than all. Learn more and sign up at [www.ccbcfamily.org/women](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/women).

**FIND HELP AND HOPE IN GRIEF SHARE OR ANOTHER SOUL CARE GROUP.** Soul Care groups are a safe place to land as you work through a specific issue with the hope of the gospel. This fall GriefShare is meeting for anyone who has lost a loved one. There are also groups for men, specifically, about redeemed sexuality, sin struggles and dealing with suffering. Groups for women center on processing unmet expectations, painful situations and the loss of a child. You can learn more about the groups and sign up at [www.ccbcfamily.org/soulcare](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/soulcare).

**GROW YOUR FAITH AND THE NEXT GENERATION WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY!** Serving in Children's Ministry on Sundays is a chance to build authentic friendships, grow deeper in your faith and show kids that Jesus loves them. To sign up, stop by the Children's Welcome Center or email [children@christchapelbc.org](mailto:children@christchapelbc.org) this week.

**WE'VE SWITCHED NUMBERS—JOIN THE NEW CCBC FAMILY TEXT!** The CCBC Family text is here to help you stay updated on must-know news. To receive the updates, text "CCBCFamily" to 24253.



**LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD?** Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE.** The process is quick and easy — just text "CCBCFW" to 833-422-7200 to get started.