* **Don’t SCANDALIZE Non-Essential Doctrine And Cultural Issues.**

***8****But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.* ***9****Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a* ***stumbling block to the weak****.****10****For 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?* 1 Corinthians 8:8-10

**Paul Presents A Practical Solution:**

***27****If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience.****28****But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience.****29****I am referring to the other person’s conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another’s conscience?****30****If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?* ***31****So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.****32****Do not cause anyone to stumble,*

*whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—* 1 Cor 10:25-32

* **Discern And Avoid Stumbling BLOCKS To Other Christians.**

***11****So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.****12****When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience,* ***you sin against Christ****.****13****Therefore, 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.* 1 Corinthians 8:11-13

*Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.* Romans 14:3

**Chapter 8 -> Getting Along With Others In The Grey Areas…**

**March 20th, 2022**

**Eating Meat Sacrificed To An Idol.** Greco-Roman society was saturated with idol worship, and it was common for meat sold in the marketplace to have been consecrated as a sacrifice to false gods prior to its sale.

* **Remember Bible Knowledge And LOVE Go Hand-In-Hand.**

*Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while* ***love builds up****.****2****Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know.****3****But whoever loves God is known by God.* 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

**The 10 Commandments… #1 and #2:**

***3****“You shall have* ***no other gods*** *before[ me.****4****“You shall not* ***make for yourself an image****in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.****5****You shall not* ***bow down to them or worship****them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God,* Exodus 20:3-5

* **Apply Scripture As A TOOL, Not A Weapon.**

***4****So 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.”****5****For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”),****6****yet 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.* 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

* **Consider The CONSCIENCE And Sinful Struggles Of Others.**

***7****But 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.* 1 Corinthians 8:7

*To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.* Titus 1:15

**POINSETTIAS**