

# AS A CHRISTIAN, IS IT OK IF I...?

1 CORINTHIANS 8

## MAIN TAKEAWAY

Believers should always consider their Christian liberties in light of Christian love. While we have freedom in Christ, our choices should always be guided by love and consideration for others.

## INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**In your experience, what are the most common topics referred to in this question:  
“As a Christian, is it OK if I...?”**

**When making decisions, Pastor Jonathan encouraged us to ask the following questions:**

- **Does this build me up spiritually?**
- **Does this bring me under its power?**
- **Could this potentially cause another believer to stumble?**
- **Could I ask God to bless this behavior?**

**How can asking these questions give you clarity and conviction? Share a time when you or someone else used restraint from doing something out of consideration for another believer.**

## UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

**Considering verses 1-3, what issue did the church of Corinth have concerning food offered to idols? How does Paul address it?**

**What is the difference between something being a liberty or a liability? How might a liberty become a liability, and how can you prevent this from happening?**

**Knowledge of God's Word is important because you can't believe or obey what you don't know (Hosea 4:6). But why isn't knowledge enough? What else must you have, and how do you focus on it (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)?**

**Pastor Jonathan said, "Don't rob yourself of the opportunity to further depend on God." Instead of avoiding the difficulties of life (death, fear, worry, pain, etc.), how can you embrace them as a catalyst that drives you closer to God and His promises?**

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. The word *temptation* can also be translated as "trial" or "test." Pastor Jonathan said, "God will not allow you to go through a trial beyond your ability without providing you with a path to endure it." How has God equipped us to overcome the trials of life (2 Peter 1:3)?**

**How do you practically steward your time and guard your mind (v.8)? How would you like to grow in these areas?**

**How does the gospel call us to live sacrificially towards those who differ from us?**

## **APPLICATION**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Pastor Jonathan shared about the topics of alcohol, prescription drugs, and social media. What convictions have you developed about these topics, and how has love and consideration for others guided your choices?**

**Pastor Jonathan said, "Whatever you are using to escape from or to endure something, remember that God is so much more powerful." In what area of your life does this apply? How can you look to God's power instead?**

**Ask God to reveal the areas in your life that you think are liberties, but are actually liabilities leading you away from Him. How did you respond to this message?**

## **PRAYER**

Give thanks to God for the power of the gospel, which enables us to no longer for ourselves but for the sake of God and others. Pray that you will use your freedom in Christ to love and serve others.