

## ***Study Hints for Thinking Further***

### ***International Bible Lessons***

**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

**Sunday, July 13, 2014**

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

### **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

#### **1. What are some of the characteristics of those who are puffed up by knowledge?**

They may seem arrogant and have an attitude (and actually may think) that they are better than those who do not have as much information as they do. They may be impatient with those who know less than they do, think less quickly, or have different beliefs. They may speak sarcastically. They may make fun of others and call them names that denigrate their intelligence and value as persons created in the image of God. They may look down upon those who try to live according to the Bible’s teachings and call them “legalistic” or other names.

#### **2. How might someone use their knowledge in love to build up others?**

They might tell them to keep trusting in Jesus Christ, Who loves them and will help them; to pray and read the Scriptures in order to grow in grace and knowledge; to remember that the Holy Spirit indwells them and Jesus is praying for them in heaven. They can praise someone to encourage them by speaking specifically and knowledgeably about what they have seen the person do or have heard about them. They may become a teacher or a mentor to someone. They might exhort them to keep on trying if they fail or do not feel successful. They may verbally defend someone, especially those who do not have the ability to defend themselves. They might continually demonstrate their love for them by what they do and say.

#### **3. Why would you say that it is more important to be known by God than to know a lot of facts about God?**

People can know a lot of facts about God and remain in rebellion against God; they can know a lot of facts and not love God and others. Since we love because God first loved us, when we love and obey God and when we love others we show that we are known by God. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can spend eternity with God the Father and Jesus Who know us.

#### **4. What beings exist in the spiritual realm that the Bible reveals to us?**

Human beings, who were designed to become the temple of God.

God the Father, our Creator and Sustainer.

The Holy Spirit, Who indwells Christians and prays for them.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who now reigns in heaven.

Angels and demons.

Idols do not really exist.

#### **5. How serious can it be if we use our freedom and sin against other Christians?**

We can weaken and wound their conscience. We can lead them into sin or back into sin and unbelief by our example and/or by our words. We can lead them into thoughts and behaviors that will destroy them. We can sin against Christ by doing these things, and our sins against Christ can lead to His discipline or punishment of us.

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