

Did I Offend You?
1 Corinthians 8

Franklin Church of Christ Mitch Davis December 19, 2010 AM Worship

Introduction:

- A. SOMETIMES, WITHOUT REALIZING IT, WE CAN BE VERY INSENSITIVE:
 - 1. **Homeschooled parent:** I can't believe any Christian parent would allow their children to go to public schools.
 - 2. **Public-schooled parent:** *those* homeschooled children are socially backward.
 - 3. **Republican to Democrat:** how can you call yourself a Christian?
 - 4. **Person against small families:** Don't you know God said to "be fruitful and multiply?"
 - 5. **Person against "large" families:** Don't you know what causes that? They have birth-control, you know.
- B. HUMOROUS OR DAMAGING?
 - 1. **There are times when light humor is understood and enjoyed by all.**
 - a. Often, these very same statements are thrown out with thoughtlessness, sarcasm, or insensitivity.
 - b. As important, statements like these typically reveal our personal convictions.
 - 2. These **convictions** – along with **how** we reveal them – are the focus of this sermon.

Discussion:

- I. WE ALL HAVE KNOWLEDGE
 - A. **The purpose of knowledge** is to bring us to and build us up in the faith. **Eph. 4:11-16**
 - B. **How we share these beliefs** are just as important as the beliefs themselves. **1 Cor. 8:1-13**
 - 1. **School choices:** public/private vs. home-school, etc.
 - 2. **Family size:** "stewardship" (sm) vs. "be fruitful" (lrg).
 - 3. **Holiday participation:** just a celebration vs. not condoning religious error/paganism.
 - 4. **Denominational bake sales:** stewardship vs. not condoning sin.
- II. KNOWLEDGE PUFFS UP / LOVE EDIFIES
 - A. Can we still have "unity of the faith" if we come to different applications regarding various matters?
 - B. Case in Point: Meats offered to idols. **1 Cor. 8**
 - 1. All agree that idolatry is sinful.
 - 2. Yet one applied that belief to "eat no meat."
 - 3. Another applied that belief to "eat meat."
 - C. **Our modern convictions:**
 - 1. All want what is best for our children's walk with the Lord (no sin in our choice)
 - 2. All want to be "good stewards" but come to different convictions about birth control and faith.

Love Is The *How* (**1 Cor. 13:4-7**)
- III. PRACTICALLY
 - A. **Be mindful of others. Rom. 14:1-3; 1Cor. 8:7-9; 10:24**
 - B. **Do not judge the servant of God:** he stands before God, not you. **Rom. 14:4**
 - C. **Use your words to build up**, not destroy. **Eph. 4:29**
 - D. **Whatever you do, do in service to the Lord. 1 Cor. 10:23, 31; Rom. 14:5-8**

Conclusion:

- A. Clearly, we all have knowledge: but how we use that knowledge toward others is of vital importance.
- B. Consider the conscience of one another as they stand before God's judgment seat, not yours.