

**Living & Loving through Disagreement**  
**(Principles from 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christian Conflict)**  
**First Christian Church—August 23, 2020**  
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**From Gray to BLACK & WHITE...**

**GOD's Story— Dangerous Rights: 1 Corinthians 8:9; 9:12b, 15a, 19-23**

Summary of the Corinthian Conflict: To eat or not to eat food offered to idols?

- Strong Bro/Sis—my conscience is clear; I can eat it. So can you.
- Weak Bro/Sis—my conscience bothers me; I can't eat it. Neither should you.

Paul's Solution to the Conflict: This is a Matter of Conscience/Opinion. Respect/accept each other.

Lessons we have yet to learn, but must:

- My Brother/Sister is more important than my rights. 1 Corinthians 8:9
- The use of my rights must not hinder the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:12b
- The salvation of others trumps the exercise of my rights. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

**Principle #4:** Exercising our rights and freedoms without regard for others can be damaging.  
Christians give up their rights and freedoms for the benefit of others whenever necessary.

**In faith, unity.**  
**In opinions, liberty.**  
**In all things love.**

But what if, what for someone is an opinion, for you is a matter of absolute truth or morality?

**Big Idea:** The salvation of the person with whom I disagree is more important than me winning the argument or making my point.

**Big Challenge:** Express love and patience to someone with whom you fundamentally disagree over an issue, which for you is NOT just a matter of opinion, but a matter of absolute morality.

**Right On!**

(NT Scripture Readings: John 17:20-23; 1 Peter 4:8)