

Sermon Outline: “Living as One Known by God” 1 Corinthians 8:1–6

Worship Service – October 5, 2025

Introduction: The Confidence of Saying “I Know”

- Knowledge gives us confidence and a sense of security.
- In Paul’s time, the idea of valuing *gnosis* (knowledge) spread widely.
- The Corinthian church was influenced by this trend.
- They had the right knowledge: “Idols are nothing,” “There is one true God.”
- Yet Paul warned, “You do not yet know as you ought to know.”

Questions:

- What is true knowledge?
- How is knowledge related to living by faith?

1. Knowledge Puffs Up, but Love Builds Up (vv. 1–3)

Background of Corinth:

- Corinth was a commercial city closely tied to idol temples.
- Most meat sold in the market had been offered to idols.
- Trade guild meetings were often held in temple halls.
- Some believers thought, “Since idols don’t exist, it doesn’t matter.”

Paul’s Warning (vv. 1–2):

“Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know.”

- Knowledge used selfishly only leads to pride.
- What truly matters is building others up in love.
- Those who don’t prioritize love over knowledge remain ignorant.

Being Known by God (v. 3):

“But whoever loves God is known by God.”

- We love God because He first knows (and loves) us.
- To be known by God means to be loved by God.

The Flow of Faith:

Known (loved) by God ⇒ Able to love God ⇒ Build others up in love ⇒ Gain true knowledge

Principle: Everything begins with being loved by God, not with knowledge.

2. One God, One Lord, and Us (vv. 4–6)

The Reality of Idols (vv. 4–5):

- Idols have no real existence.
- There is no God but one.
- Yet behind idols lie demonic powers (10:20).

Our Relationship with the One God (v. 6):

“For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.”

God the Father:

- Source of all things.
- Goal of our lives.

The Lord Jesus Christ:

- All things exist through Him.
- We exist through Him.

Important: The Father and the Lord Jesus are equal in essence — the Trinity.

Self-Examination:

- Do I root my identity and purpose in God?
 - Do I base my identity on ancestry or nation?
 - Have I made work, money, or relationships my identity?
 - Do I live for self-fulfillment or worldly success?
- ⚠ *Whatever takes the place of God in your heart is your idol.*

Conclusion: Living as One Known by God

Three Truths:

1 Love takes precedence over knowledge.

- Knowledge alone leads to pride.
- True knowledge builds up others in love.

2 Everything begins with being loved by God.

- Because we are known and loved by God, we can love Him and others.
- Right knowledge follows the practice of love.

3 The Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are our entire existence.

- God is our source and our goal.
- Christ is the One through whom we live.

Application and Invitation:

- What is the foundation of your life?
- Have you placed your ancestry, work, success, money, or relationships on God's throne?
- Those may be your idols.

Invitation:

- True freedom is found in surrendering everything to the one true God and living through Christ.
- Rather than boasting in knowledge, let us serve one another in love and build up the church.
- Let us live with our roots, our being, and our purpose grounded in God alone.