

DON'T BECOME A STUMBLING BLOCK

1Cor. 8:7-13 *“However not all men have this knowledge: but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. **But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.** For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dinning in an idol’s temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Messiah died. And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Messiah. Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.”*

This verse is a little bit confusing, the best way to explain it is with an example: eg.. should a Believer go to a Chinese restaurant knowing that they are Buddhists, and as most do, they are offering up their business, (including all foods used there), to Buddha? If a saint eats there, it is alright, as long as no other immature saints witness it. Because food offered up to idols has no relevance to a mature Believer, because he doesn't give such reverence to it. But if this mature Believer was there in the restaurant eating and a babe in Yeshua saw him there, knowing that it was a place dedicated to Buddha, the faith of the babe would be damaged because the mature Believer, is not leading by example, as he may understand it. Because that babe doesn't fully understand about food offered up to idols, he may be disappointed, and lose faith in the mature Believer that he thinks should know better.

To resolve this problem, if a mature Believer needs to eat at a place like this, it is better to get a take out order to prevent the possibility of such a thing happening, or upon sitting down in such a place ask the Holy Spirit immediately if his presence in such a place would be offensive to any immature Believers that may stumble into the place while he is there.

DASYD Ministry

Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Dec 5/16)