

September 14, 2025

Imagine someone coming to our intercultural church for the first time, from a place in the world where there is one ethnic group speaking one language. That person would probably ask the question, "How did this happen?"

To help the person understand, we would provide the context, the history and circumstances that created a multi-cultural city with an intercultural church family: the history of exploration, the first settlements of foreigners, starting in about 1860, and the patterns of immigration over the past century.

When we read 1 Corinthians 8, we ask, "What context would lead a church in Corinth to write to Paul about food offered to idols?" And, what does it mean for us today? If we understand the context, we'll find that Paul's answers are more relevant for us than we might assume at first glance.

- 1. Spiritual naivete can really hurt us.**
- 2. Our "spiritual knowledge" can hurt others.**
- 3. Solution: Being known by God and truly knowing Him.**

Reflection Time:

1. Is there anything that so captures your affections, thoughts, and energies that it is more essential to you than God? Ponder this for a moment.
2. Do you need to remove your idol and reaffirm your allegiance to the one true God?
3. Has your "spiritual knowledge" ever squeezed out love?
4. What do you confess from your heart about God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son?