

Chapter 8

He rebuketh the learned who in pride of their knowledge did eate Idolothyta, that is things offered to Idols, vſing (as they ſaid) their libertie; but not confidering that the ignorant tooke their doing as an example for them to frequent ſuch meats ſo, as they did before in their Paganifme, with opinion that they did ſanctifie the eaters.

The 4. part.
Of meats ſacri-
ficed to Idols.

And concerning thoſe things that are ſacrificed to Idols, we know that ¶we al haue knowledge. ^{a)}Knowledge puffeth vp; but charitie edifieth. ² And if any man thinke that he knoweth ſomething, he hath not yet knowen, as he ought to know. ³ But if any man loue God, the fame is knowen of him. ⁴ But as for the meats that are immolated to Idols, we know that an Idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no God, but one. ⁵ For although there be that are called gods, either in Heauen, or in earth, (for there are many gods, and many lords) ⁶ yet to vs there is one God, the Father, of whom al things, and we vnto him: and one Lord IESVS CHRIST, by whom al things, and we by him. ⁷ But there is not knowledge in al. For ¶ſome vntil this preſent with a conſcience of the Idol, eate as a thing ſacrificed to Idols: and their conſcience being weak, is polluted. ⁸ But meate doth not commend vs to God. ⁹ For neither if we eate, ſhal we abound: nor if we eate not, ſhal we lack. ¹⁰ But take heed leſt perhaps this your libertie become an offence to the weake. ¹¹ For if a man ſee him that hath knowledge, ſit at table ¶in the Idol's Temple; ſhal not his conſcience, being weake, be edified, to eate things ſacrificed to Idols? ¹² And through thy knowledge ſhal the weake Brother periſh, for whom Chriſt hath died? ¹³ But finning thus againſt the Brethren, and ſtriking their weake conſcience; you finne againſt Chriſt. ¹⁴ Wherefore if meate ſcandalize

Ro. 14, 15.

Ro. 14, 21.

^a Knowledge without charitie puffeth vp in pride, and profiteth nothing at al: when it is ioyned with charitie, then it edifieth. *Aug. li. 9. ciu. Dei. c. 20.*

my Brother, I wil neuer eate fleſh, left I ſcandalize my Brother.

ANNOTATIONS

1 We al haue knowledge.) The ſpiritual and perfectly inſtructed Chriſtians knew no meats now to be vn-cleane, neither for ſignification, as in the Law of Moyſes; nor alwaies by nature and creation, as the Manichees thought; nor by any other pollution, as in that they were offered to Idols: and therefore they did eate boldly of ſuch meats as were ſacrificed, condemning & condemning their Idols as mere nothing, and the worſhip of them as the honour of things imaginarie. Which their fact, for their want of diſcretion and charitie, and for the vſe of that their libertie to the offence & ſcandal of the weake, the Apoſtle doth here reprehend.

No meats vn-cleane.

Giuing of ſcandal reprehended.

7 Some with a conſcience.) The perfecter mens fault was, that they gaue offence by their eating, to the weaker Chriſtians. Who ſeeing them whom they reputed wiſe & learned, to eate the meats, offered to Idols, conceiued that there was ſome vertue and ſanctification in thoſe meats, from the Idol to which they were offered: and thought that ſuch things were or might be eaten with the ſame conſcience and deuotion as before their conuerſion. Therefore the caſe ſtanding thus, and the Apoſtles diſcourſe of eating or not eating meats being ſo as is declared (a thing ſo euident that it admitteth no other interpretation) if the Proteſtants apply any of this admonition againſt our faſts in the Cath. Church, they be too ridiculous.

The Heretikes ridiculoſly apply S. Pauls words againſt the Churches faſts and abſtinence.

11 In the Idol's Temple.) Like as now, ſome Catholikes haue ſaid, they know that Caluin's Communion is but as other bread and wine. But yet the ignorant ſeeing ſuch goe to the Communion, thinke that it is a good acte of Religion. Yea whatſoeuer they pretend, it muſt needs ſeeme an honour to Caluin's Communion, when they are ſeen in the Idol's Temple ſolemnly fitting or communication at the abominable table.

Going to the Communion, what a finne in Catholikes.