

Chapter 8

He rebuketh the learned who in pride of their knowledge did eate Idolothyta, that is things offered to Idols, vsing (as they faid) 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 facrificed to Idols.

And concerning those things that are facrificed to Idols, we know that ¹we al haue knowledge. ²Knowledge puffeth vp; but charitie edifieth. ³And if any man thinke that he knoweth something, he hath not yet knowen, as he ought to know. ⁴But if any man loue God, the fame is knowen of him. ⁵But 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. ⁶For although there be that are called gods, either in Heauen, or in earth, (for there are many gods, and many lords) ⁷yet 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. ⁸But there is not knowledge in al. For ⁹some vntil this present with a conscience of the Idol, eate as a thing facrificed to Idols: and their conscience being weak, is polluted. ¹⁰But meate doth not commend vs to God. ¹¹For neither if we eate, shal we abound: nor if we eate not, shal we lack. ¹²But take heed lest perhaps this your libertie become an offense to the weake. ¹³For if a man see him that hath knowledge, fit at table ¹⁴in the Idol's Temple; shal not his conscience, being weake, be edified, to eate things facrificed to Idols? ¹⁵And through thy knowledge shal the weake Brother perishe, for whom Chrifit hath died? ¹⁶But finning thus againft the Brethren, and striking their weake conscience; you finne againft Chrifit. ¹⁷Wherefore 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 flefh, left I scandalize my Brother.

ANNOTATIONS

1 We al haue knowledge.) The fpiritual and perfectly inftructed Chriftians knew no meats now to be vn-cleane, neither for fignification, as in the Law of Moyfes; 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 fuch meats as were facrificed, contemning & condemning their Idols as mere nothing, and the worship of them as the honour of things imaginarie. Which their fact, for their want of difcretion and charitie, and for the vfe of that their libertie to the offense & scandal of the weake, the Apoftle doth here reprehend.

No meats vn-cleane.

Giuing of scandal reprehended.

7 Some with a confcience.) The perfecter mens fault was, that they gaue offense by their eating, to the weaker Chriftians. Who feeing them whom they reputed wife & learned, to eate the meats, offered to Idols, conceiued that there was fome vertue and fanctification in thofe meats, from the Idol to which they were offered: and thought that fuch things were or might be eaten with the fame confcience and deuotion as before their conuerfion. Therefore the cafe ftanding thus, and the Apoftles difcourfe of eating or not eating meats being fo as is declared (a thing fo euident that it admitteth no other interpretatiō) if the Proteftants apply any of this admonition againft our fafts in the Cath. Church, they be too ridiculous.

The Heretikes ridiculoufly apply S. Paules words againft the Churches fafts and abftinence.

11 In the Idol's Temple.) Like as now, fome Catholikes haue faid, they know that Caluin's Communion is but as other bread and wine. But yet the ignorant feeing fuch goe to the Communion, thinke that it is a good acte of Religion. Yea whatfoeuer they pretend, it muft needs feeme an honour to Caluin's Communion, when they are feen in the Idol's Temple folemnly fitting or communication at the abominable table.

Going to the Communion, what a finne in Catholikes.