**7 17**Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. **18**Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. **19**For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. **20**Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. **21**Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) **22**For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. **23**You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. **24**So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

### Food Offered to Idols

**8**Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. **2**If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. **3**But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

**4**Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” **5**For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— **6**yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

**7**However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. **8**Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. **9**But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. **10**For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? **11**And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. **12**Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. **13**Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.