

The Crowns In Corinthians – 8 “The Crown of Love”
Pastor O’Dorisio – October 15, 2025
Bible Text: [1 Corinthians 8:9-13](#) ...

<https://livingwatersternacle.com/sermons/10-15-25-the-crowns-in-corinthians-8-the-crown-of-love/>

And tonight, as we’re going through these crown glories in Corinthians; tonight, we come to the Crown of Love. And we moved from chapter seven last week which is a very personal encouragement to our lives and let’s not forget we abide with God. Isn’t that simple? Just abide with God, He abides with you, just abide with Him. And we saw the encouragement there in the beauty of what He wants in every roll of our life. He wants us to abide with Him in everything. And we’re going to move from that into chapter eight is to love your brother in all things, and through all things. So, it’s a beautiful thing, and I think it’s important to really understand you need chapter seven to move into chapter eight. You need to not be about the cares of this life in the roles of your life, you need to abide with God, and I’ll tell you what, that love then in your life it sure can love a brother in Christ. And it can be powerful, and it can be such an encouragement it can change things in people; we know that. Matter of fact, and especially these last two services we’ve had. Think of the testimony that we’ve had with Brother Steve Small, and the men that come up and especially the different ones touched by his life, his friends. You know, it was just the grace of God that was with him, but the love of Jesus 01:41

And here if the Lord tarry on Saturday there isn’t another word but love, and so it’s caused us to be the men and women that we are. See, without one another, without that tightly fit compacted together love. Without that body edifying itself in love, this is scriptures saints. That’s the only way this happens. That’s what the Lord says. Assemble yourselves the much the more as you see that day approaching. He would never, ever want you to take yourself away from people that loved the truth. You can give any excuse, and every excuse you want, He wouldn’t do that. And so I’m thankful to God to be encouraged to want that love because that is the evidence of love perfected in our lives and let’s never forget, what is the one commandment that you love one another? So, we’re thankful to God. 02:39

But going back to chapter seven and thinking about this, it wasn’t pointing again to the natural life. I know many people do, and I’m talking about when it said when Paul said it’s better to remain unmarried; unmarried was better. Now, I could kind of be funny, and I could say well if you’re talking about my dad, who has the best wife that could ever be. He still would always tell me the two rules. Don’t get married, and don’t buy a new car. But that wasn’t what this was about. It truly was something that was spiritual was he was talking about because we know that when we set out to do something in our own strength, well we’re going to fail. It’s not going to come to any encouragement; it’s not going to come to any gain in the things of God of God; it must be by the grace of God. It cannot be by our own works, that would just a mess of pottage as we see. But to remain married was better, but Paul was speaking in Spiritual to remain unmarried in the Spirit to anything on this earth. And don’t let anything identify us but Christ, to not have any real idols of

anything but Christ. And we were given a lot of examples as the Lord encourages our hearts, and to testify of my own kids. You can love your kids so much to an extent to where they become something that starts to defeat you and defeat them from the things of God. You need to just abide with God and I'll you, it'll all fit, it'll all be in its place because it'll all be under the headship of the Lord.

04:22

So, in spirit first love only being married to one husband, and that's your Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. So tonight, we move and we go on to chapter eight. And once again on the surface we're going to talk about meats meaning food. We're going about dining if you will naturally, but there's a very deep beautiful Spiritual meaning; yes, the crown of love. That Christ's love would be what moves us and constrains us when we're interacting with our brethren. So, let's go ahead, and in chapter eight let's begin reading. We'll read from verses nine through thirteen. He says but take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak. We've heard this before, haven't we? And we're going to go to other verses in the bible tonight, but the Lord emphasizes that, that you know all things are lawful, but all things aren't expedient; they're not all spiritually encouraging. And what always is the throttle or, you know, the speed checker, the overspeed limiter; there's lots of different things they're calling engines and turbines, and things like that; it's the love of God. That's the only thing that stops us from ourselves.

05:47

You know that, even today it truly is. We can try to be as kind and good as we want to be, but really the love of God, and that's our gage, it's amazing, it's amazing the tenderness we can have toward our brethren no matter what's going on; you know what I'm saying. So, he says take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours becomes a stumbling block to them that are weak. For if any man sees thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple; this is the example, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols. So, here we have this example. This brother that has the liberty, and what's earlier said in the scriptures here is, you understand, somebody could offer something to this god, that god, whatever it is; that's just a lie. And do I have the liberty to come in there? You know, if the cook went back there and was going to cook me a steak, and so he's offering it up to whatever it is, and I didn't really even know. You know, I really don't care except is it a good piece of meat, and did it come out right. He can offer up any god he wants. I know that's emptiness, and this is what that's saying. We have that knowledge, we have that understanding that there's one God. There's one Father, and there's one Son huh? And then there's the Holy Ghost praise God.

07:22

So, you can go do whatever you want, and I thank the Lord, I'm at liberty for that, and I'm thankful I have the liberty too, and really know this in your life. I know we love to deal with Christians even in our work, and all of these different things. If the Lord feeds you with a raisin you know, take it, that's a wonderful thing. Just take it from the hand of God. Just think, if Danial would have said about what King Cyrus said, you know, I don't want you, I don't want to have any help from you; we don't need you to come in here to

do anything. Well, he was a most likely an unbelieving king, but he was very, very, very influential and moved with God. God uses that. God will use what God's going to use, and it's a sweet thing. You know, think about this meeting we even have, when Brother Hill came out here there was a little white church on this property. Okay? And so he was ministering here, and they invited him out and it didn't take long, they didn't like the grace he was preaching. And so, they said well, we're just going to close up the purse strings and you're not going to have a place to preach, or anything like that, so you can hit the road dude, and we'll see where you go with this thing. Well, it happened to be the fortune teller that was living right there where we have the parking lot, and she was, she was a seer. and Brother Hill was kind to her, and talked to her about the things of God, and she heard about that, she came to Brother Hill, and she said you know, don't worry about it, I'm going to buy you that church. Oh. You're not filled with the Holy Ghost so I can't take that money.

09:14

You don't know the bridal truth. Someone tells you, and brings this to you, by the hand of God take it, amen? Get rid of your self-righteousness please and pray the same for me. But we're grateful to God so we're thankful. So, it says any man in verse ten again see thee which hath knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols. Just because somebody else is doing it may not mean you have the liberty for it, alright? And we need to be wise when we're with someone that doesn't have the liberty for something to just say just go ahead and do it. And then it wasn't, didn't they have a problem with it? You understand. And we can even go into praying for the Holy Ghost. Wait on God, there's been times I've seen sometimes people pray with people that even won't receive the Spirit, and I know we're encouraged brothers and sisters, but we're not trying to get them to be in a sense like us in that regard. This is about the word of God; this is about the anointing of the Lord. And when we try to force something on people, and they partake in it, and it really wasn't the conviction of the Lord that brought them into it, it gets to be a problem, and it can be something that defeats them for a long time. So, we need to be wise, amen? And how is that wisdom? Love and really understand that. Let the Lord will be magnified in these things, and not that you know we're spiritual troupers or something of that nature. I don't like those terms. You know, I don't like prayer chain; I don't like that term. We pray for one another. You know, we just lift each other up. And if one person prays for me that's wonderful, if ten or a hundred, but just pray, amen? So, should get a couple notes on that.

11:21

But verse eleven, and through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died. So, see, you could knock them completely out of the truth; you don't want to do that. You want them to come in when they're encouraged of the Lord and chastened of the Lord that they have that liberty, But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no meat, or no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend. Alright? So that's powerful, so saints God help us not to belittle, or put down a brother because of their unbelief., or because of their lack of growth in liberty.

And God help us to be patient, and God help us to be wise, and to be able to encourage them even with this encouragement in these scriptures. You know, you praying for someone to be filled with the Holy Ghost, you know, and they didn't get filled that night. Well, you're such a failure, you didn't pray hard enough, or whatever, or God forbid we'd ever say something like that, but the encouragement is which is true. You spent the most valuable time you could ever spend; you were worshipping God. You were seeking Him for what He wants you to have, and you know what? He'll fulfil it. 12:48

And you do, you just continue. And people say well, that's just you're being forever optimistic. How could we not know the word of God? Call those things which be not as though they are. I believe that. I'm going to go with that; I'm going to trust God's that He'll do it. And if He can get ahold of me, and some of the ones I know out here He can get ahold of anybody can't He? Praise God, so thank You Jesus. So, as well too we need to love them, and we need to love one another. And we also thank the Lord. Do you thank the Lord for anybody's faith, do you thank Him for a mustard seed of faith? Isn't it wonderful somebody gets saved? I mean, that's the beginning of the mustard seed of faith, and that's the first little bit of faith and you're thankful for it aren't you, and you rejoice. And you rejoice when a child is born, it's one of the sweetest things that could ever be, and it's the same way it is with salvation. So yes, the message is to grow up; we understand that. The message by the grace of God is to grow up unto Him in all things. But let's be patient with one another, and let's be prayerful with one another, and let's love one another because sometimes we can be very harsh and forget very quickly that we have to grow up too, amen? 14:10

Alright, let's read verses one through three because I think verses one through ten really explain everything in the chapter. Now it says, as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Amen. Knowledge though puffs up and love edifies, okay? And if any man thinks that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man loves God, the same is known of him. That is just perfect, it's all powerful, it answers what we were just talking about with a brother who's maybe weak in the things of understanding and knowing that God who He has made free is free indeed. It doesn't matter, you can offer up a lot of things to a lot of things, all I know is there's only one God. 15:12

So, as you read this, and especially verse two. If any man thinks that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. And sadly, many that even know the bridal truth, and God forbid it's any of us that knowledge stops right here. You know what I'm saying? You don't want to just have the bridal truth stopping in knowledge here in your head. And those ones are easy to spot, and the reason they're easy to spot is because they have no, and little love. They're harsh. They're critical, they're mean and they spend most of the time criticizing others, and one of the top criticisms that they have is no one knows as much as they do. Don't ever let that be us. Don't let that be you. Thank the Lord for what you know. When somebody comes to you in love with a scripture that you know so, so well and gives that to you, it's like getting kissed the first time embracing

saying thank you. How could we not? Isn't that a cold cup of water given in the name of a prophet availeth much in something that's meaningful to someone? God help us to be in tune that way. Think of Jesus, think of His life, and all faith is His faith because anybody that has faith is the faith of the Son of God. Because you have to faith in Christ to have any faith. And then the faith you have after the faith in Christ is the faith of the Son of God.

17:06

So, think of the man that had greater faith than anybody in Jerusalem that said Jesus, you don't have to come visit him, You're a busy man, just say it and it's so. And He said note, such great faith I haven't seen; that's Jesus saying that. That's the One Who is faith Who gives us all of our faith. And yet He was so excited because of the faith. That's wonderful. So. let's not be the unlearned because did you see, those that think that they know so much actually know nothing because they don't have any love. So. let's not be unlearned and God forbid unlearned and unteachable in the deep things of God. Yet It must be the love of God; it has to be, or it doesn't work. There's no effectual working. Faith can't work without love; it can't. So, all of those different things, anything you can think you're going to testify you can have like they say in a love, just go back and read First Corinthians Thirteen, and we'll be there soon. Whether it's the faith, whether it's the knowledge, whether it's the giving, but whether it's the tongues; all the different things you could have, but if you don't have love it profits you nothing, you're profitless.

18:44

So, God says here they know all, and it yet says here they know nothing. 1852 And where's all the knowing? Paul told us right there in those first three verses: once again it's love. That's what the knowing is, that's where the knowledge is, that's why Jesus had said through Paul: to know the love of Christ. The immensity of it, every dimension of it, and He willed us to know it, so know it. And knowing love, you know what'll happened, we'll be compassionate and we'll be compassionate for immature brethren, and not be quick to be harsh, praise the Lord.

19:24

Now, Back to verse nine here's the mature love saint; here's the maturity. Take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak. Tenderhearted, tenderhearted to encourage, be patient, not injure your brother. There were times in my life that it was tough for me when I knew the Lord gave me liberty for something, and boy I'll tell you it's something, if somebody made a beeline to tell me, well you shouldn't look; you know, that's not good, and all these different things you know? But I had a peace in my heart about that. And I could go back at that person like a buzzsaw, or I could be tenderhearted, and really that person does not have the liberty that I have. So, is it better for me to fight with them about that type of thing, or to say you know what? I believe that you're really not understanding the liberty I have in this, but I do not want to offend you.

20:26

So, if that's something you know whether it's music, or whatever it might be I'll shut that down. The last thing I want to do is to get in some type of an argument over something

that we have as a liberty. We're going to talk about liberty here in a little bit and make sure we understand what liberty is. But we need to be patient, we need not to injure our brother, and I want to emphasize, and we'll just go ahead with it now our liberties that we have; this is all about the liberties that we have, and someone else lacks. But what this isn't, this is not about compromising the truth. This is not about comprising the truth, so I don't offend a brother., this is not what this is. This is about liberties. And God forbid when we come up at a time when we know there's a stand against the word of His grace; we need to stand in the defense of the gospel when ones error from the truth. When ones are mixing in a little bit of leaven defeating themselves and maybe even going on to defeat others. We need to stand saints, and there can't be a compromising in that. Now we want to stand in love, we don't want to be again mean in any way, but we do need to be firm, and we don't want to give in to that at all. 21:57

And I thank the Lord, I believe the Apostle Paul so encouraged us, especially in Galatians as he had to deal with Peter, and he had to deal with Barnabas, and I tell you what, he withstood them to the face. He told them this ain't going down. And you thank the Lord because God's love reigned. You know, Peter sure was used to write a couple wonderful books in First Peter and Second Peter wouldn't you say? So, we thank the Lord for that. But thinking about this. The long suffering that the word of God is telling us as Christians is about our livelihood, and it's about our liberty in this world. And as the word of God points out here the liberty might be meat. I've mentioned it might be music. It might be wine. Really, I want you to understand this could be almost anything, and the reason I can say that brothers and sisters is remember this, and let's make sure you hear the finish on this. All things are lawful, but all things aren't expedient. they're not going to encourage my brother. If I came up to preach and I just used a bunch of slang words, and just spoke horrible how would that edify you? It wouldn't. It would distract, it would hurt, I mean it would injure, it wouldn't add to. And I thank god, and you say well how could you even think about something like that? Well, I still have flesh, I could think about a lot of things, but the love of God constrains me, and that's what I'm just saying, I am so grateful to God that we can truly trust the love of God. 23:50

And when the love of God reigns in our life in this way brothers and sisters, that's when love is perfected; you know that? I believe we're a tendered group. We love one another, this is a spiritual company, and I thank God how He's done this. We want to restore one another. We don't want to drive each another into the ground, we don't want to get in each other's face and say you can't do this, you were wrong, and all of this. I want to tell you, let's talk about the love of Christ. Let's talk about this wonderful grace and mercy that we're loved with, and the Lord will take care of these different things. And I always go over to; this isn't talking about discord. This isn't talking about ones that might be bent at certain times that come into a certain state of their life, and they want to cause discord, they want to hurt and injure other brethren like this. And I'll tell you; the word of God says God hates that. And as a pastor I know God has shown me that a couple times and I've had to ask those ones that had come to leave. And they needed to leave and to

have the Lord to encourage them to have a tenderness to heal that. And when that was healed, we want to embrace and have that fellowship. 25:17

But this isn't about you know if this person's doing this, and this person's doing that, I'm talking about you know let's just talk about the things of the world. You know, I know no one does anything of the things of world in this place, but I know Who deals with that with all of us, amen saints? And like I said, I've heard pastors, do they really know the bible truth, and they come to me and said you know, this is over the years. Well, you know if you have people doing this in your meeting, and people doing that in the meeting you know you need to tell them to get it fixed or get out of there. I grab my hand, and I said you're really kidding me, aren't you? I said where does this stop. This is your benchmark, but the word of God says if you're going to go after that, you got to keep them all. So, I'm thankful that we don't have to go after that because Lord fulfilled it all. So, I'm thankful and we rejoice together. 26:34

We have a little bit of time, so let's kind of once again go back over to Galatians. I think this'll help us, and there's such rich glory of the grace of God in this. This addresses a lot of things that we talked about tonight. We'll hit this, and hit over to Romans and then we'll call it a good night up in heaven as we see the Lord, okay? But let's begin in chapter five of Galatians reading from verse four. It says there, Christ is become of no effect unto you, and this is speaking to brethren, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision avails anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which works by love. That's what works, faith. And faith which works is empowered, is effectual because of love. Okay? And I believe that's the whole key to what we're reading in First Corinthians Eight. Paul says to them, ye did run well; who hindered you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion *cometh* not of him that called you. This persuasion isn't of the Lord, amen? Oh amen, amen, amen, and a note that I have here these brethren turned back into legality after knowing the grace of God, and God help us. And a little leaven leavens the whole lump. 28:28

You were obeying the truth, and you're turning to self-righteousness, and even a little bit of turning to that self-righteousness spoils it all. It spoils it all. The readied wife is a chaste virgin to the grace of God. She's a chaste virgin to grace. She only loves grace because that's who He is. And that's what she embraces her entire life is the love, and the first love of the grace of God that is with her. That's what we have, that's we know. Now Paul says I have I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: isn't that something? You're not going to be otherwise minded, but he that troubles you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be. And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased? I would those that preach that that trouble you, I would that were even cut off which trouble you. For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh; here it is, but by love serve one another. Yes, that's a glorious thing, and that's the whole context by love serve one another. 30:02

And I can say this by the grace of God, you all know grace; you know grace, amen? And you love grace. We wouldn't be here if we didn't love grace, and by the grace of God that grace has caused us not to be legal; we don't want to go after self-righteousness, but we need to make certain all of that liberty, all of what we know. All of what we cherish, all of what we honor that we don't misuse it. And how? How? by love, by love for one another. It's the motivator, it's the most powerful motivator. I'm praying for people in their life, don't let your motivation be something to manipulate somebody to get what you want; don't do that. Don't try to prove to somebody that you really love them, and you're doing these things to get this result for you because God will show it really wasn't love because it won't work. I Pray you understand what I'm saying. You love, and God help us stop if we're trying to get a result. Lord, help us just to love and let the Lord get the increase, amen? We know what we would love to see. We know what we would love to have come forth. Bu by the grace of God just be motivated by love. 31:56

So, we see that we can do anything because it's all lawful. But first love in a life keeps it all about love, and it makes us aware; love does to encourage one another. And even when we don't for a moment true love convicts us and it make you hurt and it makes you say honey, I'm so sorry I was so stupid; please talk to me. I don't want to sleep out here; she's downstairs, I can say that. But love make us aware. It causes us to want to encourage, and lift up, and the biggest thing is the love of God is that we have love that don't want to hurt, we don't want to stumble our brother. Yet that's such a tough one, and I say be patient with the things of God. You know you want people to take more of the things of God. Kind of go back to the Holy Ghost and teach specifically remember a brother that was here for quite some time, and that brother came in and matter of fact he was a young man that the Lord had me to testify at a bank, and he came in for quite some time. 33:37

And he was enjoying the word of God, and just was having trouble, just you know, a little bit of hesitation with the Holy Ghost, and receiving the infilling of the Holy Ghost, so this brother you know befriended him and all that was filled with the Holy Ghost and basically just got kind of got angry and said no. You're not doing this, and you're not doing that, and you need to do this and just wouldn't stop and ran that person right out of the church and that person doesn't come to church either anymore. We want to love, and we all need to grow up through that because we don't come out mature, and that's why it takes those, and I appreciate our saints, and it's not just the age on you, but you have maturity. And it's just like I encourage you young women, seek out the elderly women; talk to them. There's a lot of wisdom there, same with the younger men to the brothers in Christ, that's why I so thank the Lord for our men's and women's fellowship. We need to seek that out as unto the Lord, so we thank the Lord we have this incredible freedom, and incredible grace. Let it be reined in love. 35:10

I want to conclude this tonight. I think the Lord will give us a little bit more awareness, and I hope you don't go to sleep, but I want us to turn to Romans Fourteen because I think I know this is what the Spirit has for us to kind of wrap this all up tonight.

Romans' kind of wraps everything up every night you know. It's a good wrapper. So, Romans Fourteen, let's go to verse thirteen. I love you all, and I do and I'm just sharing the word of God with you, good stuff. Romans Fourteen, let's go Ahead and read from verse thirteen. Let's us therefore not judge one another anymore, but judge this rather that no man put a stumbling block, or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. Isn't that something? So don't judge one another, but let's judge this; let's not stumble each other. Boy, that says it all. Everything we read tonight capsulated in one little verse; isn't that something? I know and am persuaded Paul says by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; isn't that something? I think that sounds a lot like all things are lawful. but to him that esteemeth anything to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean. Don't try to convince somebody, let the Lord do that. You can encourage them, you could say you know you can eat that but let the Lord encourage that, you're great. You know, I'm definitely going to eat that steak and I don't a car if that guy offered it to whatever it was. That's a good steak. Because I know who he offered it to it doesn't even exist anyways, but the steaks good, alright?

37:03

So, but if thy brother be grieved with *thy* meat, now walkest thou not charitably. It's hard to turn down that steak, but if the love of God's in you, don't have it. Do you see what I'm saying? You know, and that's where I pray that we would know one another in the liberties that we have. But the Lord's going to have those opportunities for us to love through, right as opposed to not get offended and say well don't tell me what I can drink, or not drink, and things that are often a bad thing. Just love, let the Lord give it. It's amazing what you'll win with love; it's amazing what might change with the love of God. So, let not then your good be evil spoken of: there it is, see? For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace; joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ *is* acceptable to God and approved of men. See. There it is. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things where one may edify another. This is all about love, isn't it? We just want to grow. For meat destroy not the work of God; all things indeed are pure. But it is evil for the man the man who eats with offence. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumble, or is offended, or is made weak.

38:50

Did you see that, God included everything? Those that have the liberty to drink a glass of wine, and I do, but I wouldn't want to have that with someone that wasn't comfortable with that, and I mean that and I'm thankful, it doesn't matter. Matter of fact, that water will taste even better, praise God.

39:20

Hast thou faith? This is a big one. You have faith? Have it to thyself before God. That's something, just enjoy the Lord, right? See abide with God; see why you needed chapter seven before you went to chapter eight, amen? Happy is he that condemns not himself in the thing which he allows. Oh, thank You Jesus. Wow, aren't you happy? Aren't you happy you've got Romans Eight one? There is therefore no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. Don't forget the chapters you already read before you get to fourteen. Don't speed read, let the Holy Ghost do it. And he that doubts is dammed if he

eats because he eats not of faith. For whatsoever is not of faith is sin. So, I love that as we end this tonight; so many things there in the scriptures that thank the Lord for the faith He's given you, amen? And be patient. Again, stand in the things of God, and we stand for the word of God. It's not a compromising of the truth in any way, shape, or form, but I am thankful that when we truly do love we're tenderhearted, we'll be patient, and in that we're sure edifying our brother in Christ. Let's stand.

41:07