

In Corinth, the culture was to make a god your Lord from the many that were on offer. Some of the Christians were afraid to eat meat because the butchers sold the meat that was sacrificed to other gods, idols. Paul's problem was, how could he teach the Corinthian Christians to distinguish between the many gods of man's making and the one true God who has made us and all that exists. Paul is saying there is no need to be afraid of other things that have been given counterfeit powers. Even today, despite the fact that we believe in Jesus as our one Lord, there are some in our congregations who are weaker in areas of faith than others. Paul's real message here is that we need to show consideration, through our lives, to those with whom we fellowship who struggle in some areas of their faith. Paul explains that some things in our lives may have affected our faith. In order to help people to grow, we need to be understanding, and only from this vantage point can we help to build up each other's faith.

*Have you come to destroy us?*

*Anyone who loves God is Known by Him!*

We can forget that Jesus was God who came to dwell amongst us; we simply see a human, teaching and doing good things. Jesus lived amongst us, yet all things were subject to him, the elements, sicknesses and diseases, death itself and even time and space. Fallen spiritual beings were afraid of Him. They knew Jesus did not simply come to preach and do miracles, they knew He came to set all men free from the power of sin, from the clutches of spiritual destruction. Jesus would break the curse of death that was upon humanity, and, in doing so, the kingdom of Satan and his fallen angels would be destroyed; they would have no power over those who made Jesus Lord of their lives. The people were amazed at the authority Jesus had, but they were looking at a human and had not realised that Jesus was so much more than this. He is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with our Father God and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*Amen.*