

# 1 Corinthians 8:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

## Analysis

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**But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience** (τύπτοντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενοῦσαν, typtontes auton ten syneidesin astheousan, "striking their weak conscience")—the verb typto (τύπτω, "strike, beat, wound") is violent. Flaunting liberty doesn't merely disappoint but brutalizes the weak believer's conscience. The participle structure shows the sin's dual nature: sinning against brethren by wounding their conscience.

**Ye sin against Christ** (εἰς Χριστὸν ἀμαρτάνετε, eis Christon hamartanete)—Paul's climax. Wounding a believer is wounding Christ Himself (Acts 9:4, "why persecutest thou me?"). Christ so identifies with His people that offending them offends Him. This elevates "disputable matters" to ultimate significance: how you treat the weak brother in matters of Christian liberty reveals how you treat Christ. Knowledge divorced from love isn't mere immaturity—it's sin against Christ.

## Historical Context

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This teaching echoes Jesus's parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25:40, "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"). Paul applies Christ's mystical union with believers practically: despising the weak, asserting rights at their expense, or wounding their conscience is direct assault on Christ. This makes love for fellow believers non-negotiable.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does realizing that wounding a believer wounds Christ change your approach to disputable matters?
2. Where have you sinned against Christ by sinning against fellow believers through selfish exercise of liberty?
3. What would it look like to treat weaker believers with the same care you'd show Christ Himself?

## Interlinear Text

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οὕτως δὲ ἀμαρτάνετε εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς καὶ  
so But when ye sin against the brethren and  
G3779 G1161 G264 G1519 G3588 G80 G2532

τύπτοντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενοῦσαν εἰς  
wound their G3588 conscience weak against  
G5180 G846 G4893 G770 G1519

Χριστὸν ἀμαρτάνετε

Christ when ye sin  
G5547 G264

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 18:6** (Parallel theme): But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

**Matthew 25:45** (Parallel theme): Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

**1 Corinthians 12:12** (References Christ): For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

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