

HCC News

• **Visiting Hope for the first time? Welcome!** Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the lobby. We want to say hello and we have a small gift for you.

Serve

- **Do you have a musical gift?** Consider serving on the Hope Worship Team! We are seeking instrumentalists, vocalists, slideshow operators (will train), and sound board operators (will train). Auditions for musicians will be the first week of September. For details contact Christy Bellamy at worshipteam@hopeolmsted.org.
- **ESL Meeting.** God is using ESL in Cleveland and in Akron to build bridges into immigrant and international communities. **September 10th**, 5 pm, Room 111.
- **Have repurposed wood or sheet metal?** To prepare for upcoming changes to Hospitality's look, we need repurposed wood or sheet metal you may have around. Contact Mindy Toth at mindytoth33@yahoo.com if you have some available.
- **Updated ONLINE Giving.** Our giving systems changed 8.1 so please check that you are using the current giving link. Go to <http://www.hopeolmsted.org/serve/giving> to donate, or TEXT to 84321.
- **Children's Ministry Director.** Deadline has been **extended to 9/1/17**. Hope is looking for a part time director to oversee and coordinate our Children's Ministry (birth-5th grade). Local candidates only. Bachelor's Degree preferred. For a full job description or if interested, contact Marsha.Copper@hopeolmsted.org.
- **Olmsted Falls Food Pantry.** Provide emergency food assistance for the Olmsted Falls community. Their highlighted need is for pasta, peanut butter, and Progresso & Chunky Soup. See full list at Welcome Desk.

Connect

- **Prayer meeting.** Thursdays 7-8 pm in room 111.
- **Weekly Prayer Letter.** If you'd like to be included on the prayer letter distribution list, or have prayer requests, praise reports or active military family member we need to pray for, email Carol.McDonald@hopeolmsted.org.

Student Ministries

- **Middle School Youth Group** -- Attention Middle Schoolers! Come to Middle School Youth Group on Wednesday night from 7:00-8:30. You'll make friends, play games, eat snacks and grow in your faith—all in one place! And as always, feel free to bring friends with you!
- **High School Youth group** (9-12th graders). Join us tonight in the Multi-Purpose room from 6-8 for High School Youth Group! Tonight we'll be playing Black Light Dodgeball, Black Light 9-Square and learning more about the life of Moses. See you there!
- **Dinner at High School Youth Group Next Week!** Next week's High School Youth Group will be a little different—we'll be eating dinner together, followed by a reflective worship night. We will still meet from 6-8 in the multipurpose room at church. Bring your friends and come hungry—physically and spiritually!

All our events can be found on our website:
www.hopeolmsted.org.
App store: Hope Olmsted
You can also connect with us on social media:
Facebook: Hope Community Church
Twitter: @hopeolmsted



August 27, 2017

Pastor Joel Bubna

6941 Columbia Road, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

(440) 427-4635

Sunday 9:00 and 10:45



Member of the Christian & Missionary Alliance

Hope Community Church

Accountable Freedom

1 Corinthians 8

August 27, 2017

Pastor Austin Shaw

We can distinguish between the sovereign will of God and the moral will of God. *All things* happen under the sovereign will of God. Nothing happens that He does not know about. The moral will of God appears in Scripture and directs us to how we ought to behave. The Bible *guides* us on our choices.

When it comes to decisions, any church has libertarians and legalists. There are some who do not like any restraints and those who proceed only with great caution.

When we make choices within the moral will of God, we ought not think of our own freedom, but rather how our choices affect the spiritual direction of others.

Food sacrificed to idols as a test case for freedom.

The issue in Corinth is whether eating the food sacrificed to idols could lead some back into paganism. Pagan temples played a significant role in the ancient world. The temple was a crucial institution for civic life. They were places of business and social cohesion.

Paul agrees with the Corinthian conviction (their “knowledge”) that eating meat sacrificed to idols is meaningless because idols are not real gods (vv. 4-6, 8).

The Corinthians have the correct knowledge. The problem is a selfish application of such knowledge.

Some are being tempted back into the paganism (v. 10).

Paul is acutely aware of the “defilement” that comes from a compromised relationship with the Lord Jesus (v. 7). We are tempted to think that we can combine our Christianity with worldly pursuits. This will lead to inner conflict.

Love takes priority over knowledge.

We should note that Paul does not tell the weak to become strong. He does not say, “come on, toughen up”. Alternatively, he sympathizes with their conscience.

“Knowledge” is a Corinthian catchword. Paul says knowledge “puffs up” (a term that appears 6x in the letter). He declares that love is a more important virtue (vv. 1-3).

Group health is more important than individual freedom. There is something more important than my rights and freedoms (v. 9). When someone sees me exercising my freedom, they can enter into that behavior in a way that violates their conscience and causes them to sin. When I cause my brother or sister to stumble I sin “against Christ” (v. 12).

Applications:

Our actions have meaning within our fellowship. Could my behavior cause someone to sin against his conscience? Am I willing to limit my own freedoms for the sake of others?

In Christ, we have the great example of someone who gave up His “rights” out of love (Phil. 2.6-10).

Paul is not saying that we should stop doing anything that could offend. He is saying that we must be accountable to our brothers and sisters when it comes to exercising our freedoms.

“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all”.
– Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*, 1520

“*Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible*” (1 Cor. 9.19).

The Christian is free so *that* he can serve Christ and His church.