
Messy Church Series

Can I Do Whatever I Want?

1 Corinthians 8



IQ

- visual processing
- working memory
- fluid & quantitative reasoning

EQ

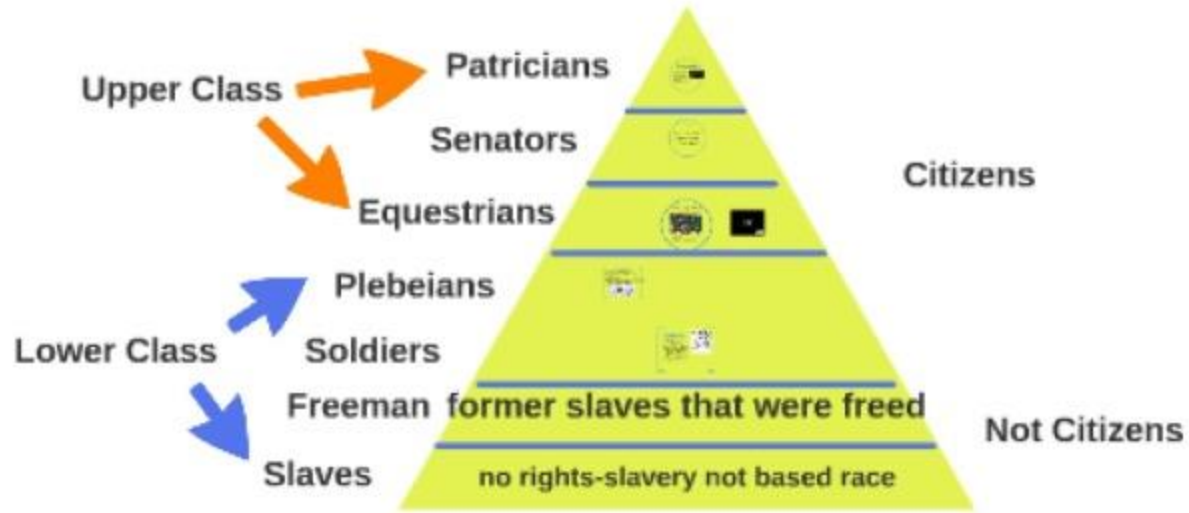
- identifying emotions
- relating to others
- social communication





Objective: To understand the Social Classes of the Roman Empire


The Roman Empire-Social Structure







**THE WORSHIP OF
KNOWLEDGE**

A misty landscape with a fence and trees, serving as a background for the text. The scene is hazy and atmospheric, with a soft light source creating a glow. The fence runs across the lower third of the image, and a large tree is visible in the distance behind it.

"Idolatry consists, not only in
the worship of false gods, but
also in the worship of the true
God in false ways."

-Alistair Begg

**EVERY CONGREGATION WILL PROFIT FROM
LOOKING AT THEMSELVES IN THE MIRROR
OF 1 CORINTHIANS 8, AND ASKING
WHETHER THERE ARE WAYS IN WHICH THEY
ARE USING KNOWLEDGE AS A WEAPON
RATHER THAN AN INSTRUMENT OF LOVE.**

**WHETHER BIBLE-THUMPING CERTAINTY
ABOUT REVEALED TRUTH, OR SERENE
CONFIDENCE IN THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC
FINDINGS, OR PASSIONATE
DISCERNMENT OF THE “RIGHT” SOCIAL
CAUSES, ANY “KNOWLEDGE”**

**THAT DIVIDES THE COMMUNITY AND
CAUSES THE KNOWLEDGEABLE ONES TO
DESPISE THOSE WHO ARE IGNORANT OR
UNCERTAIN IS NOT BEING USED IN THE
SERVICE OF GOD.**

- RICHARD HAYS



**SO RIGHT YOU'RE
EVIL?**

*“Men never do evil so completely
and cheerfully as when they do it
from religious conviction.”*

- Blaise Pascal



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GOD
INTELLIGENCE = LOVE

**FOR THE CORINTHIANS,
“KNOWLEDGE” (INSIGHT) MEANT
“RIGHTS” - TO ACT IN “FREEDOM.”
THUS, FOR THEM, FREEDOM BECAME THE
HIGHEST GOOD, SINCE IT LED TO THE
EXALTATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL.**

**FOR PAUL, THE OPPOSITE PREVAILS:
“LOVE” MEANS “FREELY GIVING UP”
ONE’S “RIGHTS” FOR THE SAKE OF
OTHERS, AND “LIFE TOGETHER” IN
COMMUNITY IS THE AIM OF SALVATION.
- GORDON FEE**


**SALVATION = A
PARADIGM SHIFT**

What is offered to man's apprehension in any specific revelation of Christ is the living God himself

KARL BARTH - QUOTESTATSCOM

**The church is not a religious
community of worshippers of
Christ but is Christ himself who
has taken form among people.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

 quotezany