

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH" PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



1 CORINTHIANS 10

Chapters 8-10 are Paul's answer to a question the Corinthian church asked Paul about the permissibility of eating meat that was offered to idols. In chapter 8 Paul has told them that it was permissible, but that they must not cause a weaker brother to fall by doing it. In chapter 9 Paul points to his own example in use of Christian liberty. And now in chapter 10 Paul will warn the knowledgeable to be careful to not "cross the line".

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³ and all ate the same spiritual food; ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. ⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND

ISRAEL'S TRAGIC EXAMPLE OF IDOLATRY

- Identify the ways Israel and Christians are similar...
 - Under the _____ = _____
 - Passed through the _____ = _____
 - Baptized into _____ = _____
 - in the _____ = _____
 - and in the _____ = _____
 - Ate the same _____ = _____
 - Drank the same _____ = _____
 - Drinking from _____ = _____
- How many of them didn't make it to the Promised Land?
 - What is (v. 6) Paul's point?
 - What evil things did Israel crave?
 - _____
 - How might we commit this sin?
 - _____

STOOD UP TO PLAY.”⁸ Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.⁹ Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.¹⁰ Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.¹⁵ I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say.¹⁶ Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?¹⁷ Since there is one bread, we who are

- _____
 - How might we sin this way?
- _____
 - How might we sin this way?
- These things were written for our _____
 - What does Paul mean, when he says that the ends of the ages have come upon us?
- Who (given the context of chapters 8-10) would be those who think they stand?
 - What might be some temptations that these people (see above) might believe to be too great to overcome?
 - What does “such as is common to man” mean? And what would prompt Paul to throw this phrase into his teaching?
 - Have you ever thought that there was no way out of a temptation?
 - In retrospect, was there a way out?
 - Why didn’t we use it?

NOW, GETTING BACK TO THE ORIGINAL TOPIC OF MEAT SACRIFICED TO IDOLS...

- _____ from idolatry!
 - What does this mean?
- An illustration comparing Christian and Jewish worship to pagan worship...
 - The _____ of blessing (what is this?) a _____ in the _____ of Christ
 - The _____ we break a _____ in the _____ of Christ

many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸ Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar? ¹⁹ What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²² Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we?

²³ All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor. ²⁵ Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions for conscience' sake; ²⁶ FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.

- One bread represents what? (v. 17)
- Partaking of it should mean what?
- All who eat the **sacrifices** are **sharers** in the altar.
- What is Paul's meaning?...
 - Is a thing sacrificed to an idol anything?
 - Is an idol anything?
 - To whom are the pagan sacrifices offered?
 - A question to ponder: Are pagan gods really demons, fallen angels (powers, principalities, rulers, the world forces of this darkness, the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places, and authorities — 1 Cor 15:24; Eph 1:21; 1 Pet 3:22; Eph. 6:12)
- And Paul's point... (v. 20)
 - You cannot drink the _____ of the Lord and the cup of _____; you cannot _____ of the table of the Lord and the _____ of demons.
 - So what is Paul's discernment about this issue?
 - Is the Lord really jealous?

PAUL'S CONCLUSION...

- What does Paul mean that all things are lawful? Are there no rules, commands, or instructions for us in Christ? What are the "all things" that are lawful?
 - What does he mean when he says that not all things are profitable?
 - Or edify?
 - Whose good should we seek?
- Why should the Corinthian Christian not ask questions in the meat market?

²⁷ If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions for conscience' sake. ²⁸ But if anyone says to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience' sake; ²⁹ I mean not your own conscience, but the other man's; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience? ³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?

³¹ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; ³³ just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.

1Cor. 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

- What might you find out, if you asked question about the origin or use of the meat in the meat market?
- What application might this have in the 21st century?
- Another scenario: If an unbeliever invites you to his house...
 - _____ and eat _____
 - _____ asking questions
 - But if anyone says to you, "This is meat _____ to idols" ...
 - _____
 - For the sake of the one who _____ you
 - And for _____ sake
 - Whose conscience?
 - Explain vv.29 and 30
- Summary
 - Do all to the _____ of _____
 - Give no offense to _____ or _____ or the _____
 - Just as I also please all _____
 - Not seeking my own _____
 - But the profit of _____ so that they may be _____
 - Be _____ of me