

Church Gone Wild: Week 10

Idolatry & Temptation

1 Corinthians 10

Pastor Derek Vreeland

The example of Israel

1 Corinthians 10:1

"Our fathers" refers to Israel. Even though the Corinthians Christians were not Jewish, they had been adopted into the family.

When the Jews were liberated under Moses' leadership, God led them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

The cloud above lead them and they literally passed through the Red Sea as the Egyptian Army was approaching.

God's relationship with Israel becomes an analogy for the Church.

1 Corinthians 10:2-3

Israel experienced a type of baptism and communion.

Moses is a type of Christ.

The Red Sea crossing is a type of baptism.

The manna they ate in the wilderness is a type of communion.

1 Corinthians 10:4

The water miraculously flowing from a rock that they drank is a type of the Holy Spirit. The Rock was a type of Jesus.

Look for Jesus in the Old Testament.

After his resurrection, he was talking to two disciples and they did not recognize him. "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27 ESV).

The Fourth Man: A Sermon by Oral Roberts

When you go to the Scripture don't look for yourself and seven steps to a happy life, but look for Jesus who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

1 Corinthians 10:6

In verses 1-5, Paul uses the example of Israel to warn the Christians of his day not to desire evil like they did. The Jews had been baptized. They had received communion and had received the Holy Spirit and still they desired evil.

Israel's story is a vicious cycle of obedience/blessing followed by idolatry/sin followed by warning/judgment followed by confession/repentance.

We are being warned to get off the merry-go-round of SIN-JUDGMENT-REPENTANCE-OBEDIENCE.

We are given four examples of how Israel sin's led to judgment.

1 Corinthians 10:7-8

This event is in Numbers 25:1-9, when the Jews began to worship Baal, the god of the Moabites, and 24,000 people died of a plague. Phinehas helped lead them to repentance.

1 Corinthians 10:9-10

"The Destroyer" is mentioned in Exodus 12:23.

1 Corinthians 10:11

These Old Testament records are examples and warnings for us today.

Dealing with Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:12

If you think you are super strong in your faith, be careful.

WARNING: SLIPPERY ROAD AHEAD!

1 Corinthians 10:13

Before looking for some principle in the verse, look for Jesus. He is the one standing by in the moment of temptation holding open the door to the way of escape.

Temptation has been common for all people in all cultures at all times: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride.

The hope is that temptation does not have to overtake you like it did the Jews at various points in their history. There is a way of escape.

1 Corinthians 10:14

There is only one thing to do when you meet an Agent in the matrix. You run!

Idolatry is worshiping anything other than the one true God.

1 Corinthians 10:15-16

Communion is not merely a religious ritual. It is a spiritual experience. When we drink the juice and eat the bread we are spiritually participating in the blood and body of Christ.

Spend time in confession and repentance, before you received communion.

Confession – telling God you are wrong

Repentance – rethinking and reliving

Revisiting the issue of eating idol meat**1 Corinthians 10:17-20**

For Christians to go to a pagan worship service and eat idol meat as a part of worship is to spiritually participate with demon activity.

1 Corinthians 10:21-22

You cannot worship God and some idol. God is more jealous for your attention than you are for your spouse's attention.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

We are called to flee temptation and idolatry and help the people around us do the same.

1 Corinthians 10:25-26

Paul repeats his point from chapter 8: Eat whatever your conscience will allow.

1 Corinthians 10:27

If you go to someone's house, eat what they serve you (if your conscience will allow) without causing a scene.

1 Corinthians 10:28-29

The issue of conscience is personal.

You cannot bind someone else according to your conscience. You may be passionate that Christians should not drink, watch rated-R movies, listen to secular music or send their kids to public school. Your passion in these matters is according to your conscience. Don't try in your words or attitude to bind other people to these things. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide their conscience.

1 Corinthians 10:30-31

No matter whether you drink alcohol or not, listen to secular music or not—live your life for the glory of God.

Do not allow anything to become an idol.

Idolatry is worshiping things. God is no thing. He is not an object that can be studied, classified or analyzed.

God is the great I AM, the all-powerful creator, the holy self-existent maker of heaven and earth. God is glorified when we give our heart's desire to him and not to some thing.

1 Corinthians 10:32-33

Avoid offending non-Christian people and Christian people, but particularly non-Christians, so that God may save them.



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