

URGENT

1st
CENTURY
CIRCA ROM



1 Corinthians



The Apostle Paul's Mission to the Corinthians



Christ Bible Church



Adult Bible Class Calendar Spring 2023

Date			Lesson Portion of 1 Corinthians
1	February	5	Review of 1 Corinthians 1-7 & Preview of 1 Corinthians 8-11
2	February	12	1 Corinthians 8:1-6
3	February	19	1 Corinthians 8:7-13
4	February	26	1 Corinthians 9:1-14
5	March	5	1 Corinthians 9:15-27
6	March	12	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
7	March	19	1 Corinthians 10:14-22
8	March	26	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1
9	April	2	1 Corinthians 15:1-28
10	April	9	1 Corinthians 15:29-58

Freedom of Conscience
Concerning Things God
Does Not Forbid or Command
1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

CONCERNING FOODS SACRIFICED TO IDOLS (8:1-11:1)

Flee From Idolatry: The Sanctity of the Lord's Table (10:14-22)

Outline of 1 Corinthians

- I. Introduction (1:1-9).
- II. Responses to Received Reliable Oral Reports from the Corinthians (1:10-6:20).
- III. Responses to a Letter from the Corinthians (7:1-16:4).
 - A. Concerning Marriage and Related Questions (7:1-40).
 - B. Concerning Foods Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-11:1).
 - 1. Correcting the Problem: Knowledge and Love (8:1-13).
 - 2. Modeling Proper Use & Non-Use of Christian Freedom (9:1-27).
 - 3. Idolatrous Presumption: Israel's Typological Forewarning (10:1-13).
 - 4. Flee from Idolatry: The Sanctity of the Lord's Table (10:14-22).
 - a. The Sanctity of Christian Ceremony: Eating and Drinking at the Lord's Table (10:14-17).
 - b. The Defilement of Syncretistic Ceremony: Eating and Drinking at the Table of Demons (10:18-22).
 - 5. Instructions for Eating Private Meals: Guard the Consciences of Others (10:23-11:1).

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

**Flee from Idolatry: The Sanctity of
the Lord's Table**



Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

**Paul's Listed Five Events from Israel's
History Expose Israel's Idolatry and
Presumption on the Lord God.**

Evil Desires.

Golden Calf.

Sexual Immorality.

Grumbling about Food.

Grumbling about Leadership.

Presumption Befits Idols

Trust Befits the Lord God

- Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.
- The point of Israel's failures is this: If you presume that you are standing securely, watch out lest you fall.”
- “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).
- Paul warns about the critical situation the Corinthians face.
- The Corinthians and all Christians must embrace Paul's posture concerning freedom of conscience.
- Our security is in God's faithfulness alone.

The Sanctity of Christian Ceremony: Eating & Drinking at the Lord's Table

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1 CORINTHIANS 10:14-17

1 Corinthians 10:14-17

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Paul Brings His Argument toward Its Climax

- Paul's argument in chapter 9 and thus far in chapter 10 has linked the exercise of a Christian's free conscience with receiving salvation on the Last Day.
- Throughout chapter 9 he demonstrates that he deliberately chose not to act on his rights as an apostle so that he might gain many converts in Corinth.
- Thus far in chapter 10, he has shown that the Corinthians have come to a critical moment like Israel did many times. Israel's idolatry, typologically dramatized, stands as a warning to us on whom the ends of the ages have come.
- Every aspect of 1 Corinthians 8:1-10:13 has been building toward this command: "Flee from idolatry!"

Paul Appeals to Common Sense— Judge for Yourselves

- “I speak as to sensible people; *judge for yourselves* what I say.”
 - 1 Corinthians 1:5—“in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge.”
 - 1 Corinthians 11:13—“*Judge for yourselves*: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered?”
- Paul offers two grounds for his appeal: the Lord’s Table and OT Offerings.
 1. The Lord’s Table.
 2. Israel’s Old Covenant Sacrifices.

Paul Appeals to the Lord's Table

1. The ceremony of the Lord's Table.

- Not just words and actions.
- Real communion with Christ Jesus who became “flesh & blood.”
 - “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?”
 - “The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?”
 - “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”
- To eat and drink is to confess that Christ's sacrificial death redeemed us from sin's enslavement.
- One loaf—signifies the unity of Christ's diverse people. This meal features the *unity*, not *diversity*, of Christ's body, the church.
- “The body of Christ”—a double reference—his flesh & his church.

The Defilement of Syncretistic Ceremony: Eating & Drinking at the Table of Demons

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1 CORINTHIANS 10:18-22

1 Corinthians 10:18-22

Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. 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. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

Paul Appeals to Israel's Offerings

2. “Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants at the altar?”
 - The priests ate portions of “a guilt offering”—“Every male among the priests may eat of it. It shall be eaten in a holy place. It is most holy” (Lev. 7:6).
 - The worshiper could eat a portion of “a peace offering”—“And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten on the day of his offering. He shall not leave any of it until the morning” (Lev. 7:15).
 - Here, Paul is not criticizing Israel, though earlier he speaks candidly of their idolatry.
 - Israel’s sacrifices were holy; pagan sacrifices are unholy imitations of God’s holy design.

Paul Appeals to Israel's Offerings

2. “Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants at the altar?”
 - Paul clarifies that he is not retracting his earlier claim— “we know that ‘an idol has no real existence.’”
 - Not the food offered on pagan idols to demons but the act defiles.
 - Idols & idol food are nothing, but demons are at work wherever there are idols.
 - Idols have no power, but demons do.
 - To participate in idol worship is to have fellowship with demons.
 - “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.”
 - “Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy?”

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God.



Exodus 20:4-6

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, *for I the LORD your God am a jealous God*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments..

Are we stronger than God?



FLEE FROM IDOLATRY!

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