

## 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

### Verses 14-15:

--Paul had just warned the Corinthians to be wise and understand the examples of OT Israel. They too had incredible spiritual privilege but that didn't mean they were all pleasing to God. They were dominated by their evil desires and fell into idolatry as well as many other types of sins.

--Those examples should have led the Corinthians to realize the foolishness of self-confidence in the face of the temptations accompanying idolatrous feasts in the pagan temples of the day.

--So, per their situation, **flee from idolatry!** Paul gives them this command because he loves them—**my beloved**.

--Paul knows he is speaking to sensible people and asks them to consider his further reasoning.

### Verses 16-21:

--Paul's overall reasoning here is very simple:

- 1) In the NT communion service one had fellowship with Christ and His people.
- 2) In the OT sacrificial service of Judaism one had communion with Jehovah and His people.
- 3) In the temples of pagan gods one had communion with demons and those worshipping demonic spirits.

--The point being—you cannot say one is true without the other being true. \*The evil stuff in this movie/music/company won't affect me. . . if the good influence of them does then so does the evil influence.\*

--**(16-17)** The **cup of blessing** was a term for the final blessing offered at the end of a meal. And the word the Paul uses for **communion** in this section is *koinonia*—the same as **1:9**.

--In remembering Christ's work on our behalf, and giving Him thanks because of that work, every Christian communes with Christ and the family of God because of Christ—**we, though many, are one bread and one body**.

--Interestingly, here (and I think this is the only time in the Bible it is done) Paul flips the normal process of communion bringing forward the cup before the bread. I think that is because Paul is not giving a teaching on the meaning of communion per say but using it as a mode of reasoning with them. So due to their moral condition he presses the blood of Christ first.

--What greater motive does any Christian have to fidelity and holiness than the blood of Christ?! They were idolaters *before* the blood of Christ.

--**(18)** Next, Paul brings in the OT sacrificial system as an example. They would understand that even then, to be a participant was saying something serious. You couldn't just be a part of the Jewish sacrificial system without communing with God and His people.

**\*Deuteronomy 12:18: *But you must eat them before the LORD your God in the place which the LORD your God chooses, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, and the Levite who is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God in all to which you put your hands. (Also: Deut. 14:22-27)\****

--(19-21) Paul doesn't want them to misunderstand him. As he said earlier, he knows that there is no reality to the man-made deities in the world. But, he does admit that those who worship these false gods are the worshipping demonic spirits behind them.

--Notice, this is not a question of *intent*. The unsaved world of that day did not *intend* to worship Satan or demons when they worshipped Zeus but they did in *reality*. Because the supernatural realm is also reality we cannot ignore. Our worlds (natural and supernatural) are connected whether people believe it or like it. \*Actions have consequences beyond intentions—think drunk driving.\*

--So the reality is that we either fellowship with one or the other. The ***cup of the Lord*** and ***the cup of demons*** are totally incompatible. You cannot be a participant and claim to be a non-participant. \*Same as in a marriage covenant\*

--Paul saw their presence at these idolatrous feasts as reckless self-confidence and a lack of true spiritual understanding. Just because an idol is nothing doesn't mean that nothing is happening. An idol may be nothing but love to brethren, temptation, and fellowship with God are something!

#### **Verse 22:**

--To finish off this dangerous attitude, Paul reminds them of God's character. He is not okay with their participation in idolatrous feasts at pagan temples.

**\*Deuteronomy 4:24: *For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.\****

**\*Deuteronomy 32:21: *They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; they have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols.\****

**\*Psalm 78:58: *For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, and moved Him to jealousy with their carved images.\****

--Our God is jealous of His place in our hearts and lives—and that is okay!—because He knows that He is actually what is also best for us. We should *want* Him to be jealous over us.

--Christ's blood was not shed so that the Corinthians could flippantly flirt with other gods—especially those that they may have once worshipped and served!

#### **Verses 23-24:**

--Here Paul returns to his earlier reasoning with them. Our "rights" or "liberties" as Christians must still be bordered by the good of others and our own edification. I do not have the "right" to participate in any action that wounds others or myself.

--This is very much an application of the greatest commandment. I am to be God-conscious and Others-conscious before I am Self-conscious. Of course, only the Spirit of God can do this in us!

### Verses 25-30:

--Here Paul lays out the general life idea of what he is talking about. This is a test case.

--(25-26) Here Paul says eat whatever you buy in the market and don't worry about it. He then quotes from **Ps. 24:1** which was a common saying of the Jews before eating.

--The emphasis here is that the **earth** and all of its fullness are the Lord's, not the devils. So eat the meat and be glad!

--(27-28) Here Paul says if someone who is not saved invites you over for dinner (a private residence not the temple ceremony Paul had just forbid) and you want to go, then go. \*Jesus and Paul did so often!\*

--If you are there and they say nothing about the food eat whatever they put in front of you and be happy.

--But, if someone says something about the food (saved or unsaved) as sacrificed to idols, then abstain because of the same quote as before **Ps. 24:1**. This is similar to Paul's reasoning in **7:15** where the peace of God can go either direction depending on the situation surrounding.

--Here the emphasis is not on the **earth** per se but on **the Lord's** and therefore all the fullness of the earth must be lived in and interacted with in relation to God's character. Go to the unsaved house but walk worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

--(29-30) You are not doing this for yourself. Your conscience is free. You are doing it because it will be a bad witness to the saved person or unsaved person who spoke to you. The weak brother will be stumbled and the unsaved person will think your religion is fake or just like anyone else's.

--We are never on vacation as salt and light in this world. God did not give us that luxury.

### Verse 31:

--Here Paul takes this principle and brings it from the dinner table to the entire life. I am called to glorify God with my entire life. If we are not called to die for Christ rest assured we are most certainly called to live for Him!

--Why does living a life glorifying to God seem almost unrealistic?

--First, the question goes from being theoretical to personal. *Do I really want to glorify God with my entire life. . . or just a part of my life?*

--Then, it goes from being general to specific. *Do I glorify God by just staying away from big bad sins and when I die then I have done it? Or do I glorify God by glorifying Him in the little things day by day?*

--Obviously, Paul goes right down to the eating and drinking. Let's actually take this for a test case. What if we watched a man at his dinner table for a lifetime? No one likes it when other people are watching them eat, but let's just pretend. What would we see?

1) We would see what he eats. \*Not just Instagram or Yelp photos\*

--We would see care and prep or thoughtless junk. \*Divine service is preformed here 3 times daily\*

--We would see God's faithfulness and blessing Vs. Too little or nothing or failure to provide. \*Elijah w/ravens\*

--We would see moderation or excess. \*Provision and blessing Vs. Opulence\*

2) We would see how he eats.

--Self-control and gratitude Vs. Gluttony and addiction and pride. \*Health Vs. Eating disorder\*

--Regard for others or himself. \*Patience, family, consideration, giving thanks to the Lord Vs. Selfish, hurried, ingratitude toward others and God.\*

--We would see that from time to time, the man of God is missing from the table, his place is empty because he is fasting—he does not live by bread alone.

3) We would see who he eats with.

--Family, spouse, friends, brothers and sisters in the Lord in sweet fellowship and peace Vs. Angry and alone, with mockers and scoffers, with the trash on TV or Netflix, with an adulterous companion, etc.

--We would see if his children are happy and respectful in his presence Vs. Fearful, sullen, and eager to get away—or maybe never even with him.

--We would see the character of friends and strangers (saved and unsaved) coming and going.

--We would see if hospitality is given or only received.

4) We would hear what is spoken.

--Prayers of thanks, simple and godly life, fellowship in the gospel, loving and patient correction of little ones, joy and laughter and unashamed witness for Jesus Christ.

--Or do we hear pride, gossip, sharp tongues, sexual perversion, cursing, accusing, complaining, slander and all types of evil speech?

--You see, I think the man who actually glorifies God in his eating and drinking won't have a difficult time glorifying God in all that he does. What of us?

--No doubt Jesus Christ and Paul were incredible examples of this type of life. Just think of what we would have learned watching Jesus at the dinner table:

-Cana of Galilee

-Simon Peter's house after his mother-in-law was raised up from a fever

-Mary and Martha's house parts 1+2

-Matthews and Zacchaeus' houses

-Simon the Pharisee and his disrespect

-The Passover dinner with the disciples

-Resurrection beach fish meal

-The road to Emmaus guys

-What will we yet learn at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?!

**Verse 32-11:1:**

--Again, the context here is those things that are neutral or our liberties. This was certainly not in relation to central things like the gospel where Paul offended people regularly.

--Where did Paul learn this "others first" mentality? Jesus Christ.

***\*Romans 15:1-3: We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."\****