

*“Flee The Fringe”*  
*1 Corinthians 10:14-22*

**Introduction:**

1. As We Return To 1 Corinthians 10 This Morning:
    - I Want You To Remember The Church To Whom Paul Was Writing This Letter!
      - It Was A Church With Challenges!
        - Because Of Their Sin & Their Pride!
      - It Was A Church That Needed To Be Challenged!
  2. Here - In Chapter 10 - Paul Is In The Process Of Challenging:
    - Those Christians There & Then, As Well As Us Today!
      - To Look To & To Live For The Lord!
        - Because Of All That The Lord Jesus Has Done!
    - And After Looking At:
      - How Christians Ought To Treat Other Christians!
      - How Christians Ought To Consider Their Own Walk & Relationship With The Lord!
      - And Even How The Children Of Israel Provide Examples For Us Today!
  3. Now - He Tells Us All To Apply What We Have Learned!
    - And To Flee The Fringe! Flee The Fringes Of Sin!
      - As He Begins In 10:14 - “Wherefore, My Dearly Beloved, Flee!” / “Flee From Idolatry!”
    - **IE:** On March 11, 2011, An Earthquake With A Magnitude Of 9.03 On The Richter Scale Struck Near The Eastern Coast Of Japan! The Fifth Strongest Earthquake On Record! Although The Earthquake Caused Tremendous Damage & Loss Of Life, It Was What Happened After The Earthquake That Got The Attention Of The World! Not Only Was There A Damaging Tsunami, But At The Nuclear Power Plant At Fukushima, 3 Reactors Not Only Melted Down, But Completely Blew Away Their Containment Buildings! And Radioactive Fallout Shot Up Into The Sky & Spread Over Japan, The Pacific Ocean, And Eventually Throughout The World! An Evacuation Zone Was Created Of More Than 12 Miles! Over 150,000 Residents Had To Leave Their Homes, Because Of The Danger Of Radioactive Contamination!
      - But - What Would You Have Done If You Lived 12.5 Miles Away From Fukushima? Just ½ Mile Away - On The Fringe - Of The Evacuation Zone? Would You Have Stayed, Thinking You Were Safe, Or That You Would Just Take Your Chances? Or Would You Have Fled As Well - Knowing What Radiation Can Do!
  4. Well - What Do You Do In Your Life:
    - When It Comes To The Dangers Of Sin?
      - You Might Not Be Actively Practicing A Particular Sin, Or Participating In Sin!
      - But Are You Hanging Around On The Fringe! The Edge!
        - Like Some In The Corinthian Church?
      - Remember In Chapter 8 - There Were Some Who Were Attending The Feasts In The Temples Of Idols!
        - There Were Others Who Were Eating The Meat That Had Been Sacrificed To Those Same Idols!
        - And They Thought:
          - It’s No Big Deal! An Idol Is Nothing / And This Meat Is Just Food!
        - They Were Just Hanging Around & Playing Around The Fringe Of Sin!
  5. What Does Paul Tell Them & Tell Us To Do With Sin?
    - Because Of All That Jesus Christ Has Done To Save Us From Sin?
      - Flee From It! Flee Even From The Fringe Of Sin!
    - Here In Our Text - 10:14-22:
      - Looking At The Specific Sin Of Idolatry!
      - But Isn’t The Root Of Every Sin A Form Of Idolatry?
        - Where We Become More Important Than God?
    - So - What We Find Here Applies To Any & All Of Our Temptations & Sins!
      - So - Flee From Even The Fringes Of Sin!
- 1. Remember To Flee!**
- 10:14-15 - “Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. / I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say!”
    - Again, In A Tender & Loving Way, Paul Tells Us To Flee From Sin!
      - In Order To Flee, It Will Take:
        - A Decision & Some Discernment!
  - The Decision To Flee!

- Each One Of Us Needs To Apply & Obey This Command To Flee!
- To Flee - Means To Escape & To Run Away From It!
  - As Fast As Possible!
- Not Just To Flee The Sin:
  - By Stopping What You Are Doing!
- But To Flee The Fringe Of Sin!
  - To Get Away From It Completely!
  - Don't Keep Living On The Edge Of A Radioactive Evacuation Zone!
- As We Find In Proverbs:
  - 4:14-15 - "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. / Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away!"
  - Flee From Even The Fringe Of Sin!
- As We Find In 1 Thessalonians:
  - 5:22 - "Abstain from all appearance of evil.
  - Flee From Even The Fringe Of Sin!
- Sin Is Not A Trivial Thing!
  - Why Should We Remember To Flee?
- The Discernment To Flee!
  - When Paul Begins 10:14 With The Word "Wherefore" - As I've Heard It Said Before - We Need To Find Out What It Is There For!
    - That One Word Ties This Command / Challenge To Everything He Has Been Telling Them About The Issue Of Eating Things Sacrificed To Idols! From Chapter 8 Up Until Now!
  - And Now, In 10:15, Paul Says: "I Speak As Unto Wise Men; Judge Ye What I Say!"
    - In Other Words - Think About It!
  - You Need To Flee From The Fringes Of Sin:
    - Because Of Everything I've Already Taught You!
  - Flee:
    - Because Of Your Love! In 8:1-13!
      - Your Love For The Lord & For Other Christians!
    - Because Of Your Liberty! In 9:1-27!
      - Even If You Are Facing An Issue That Is Not Clearly Wrong & Sin - You Have The Liberty To Give It Up For The Sake Of The Gospel!
    - Because Of Your Limitations! In 10:1-13!
      - Remember That You Are Weak & Vulnerable As Well, Like The Children Of Israel!
- Have The Right Discernment!
  - Make The Right Decision!
  - And Flee From Even The Fringe Of Sin!

## 2. ***Remember Your Fellowship!***

- 10:16-18 - "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? / For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. / Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?"
  - Here Is Another Reason To Flee From Idolatry & To Flee From The Fringe Of Any Other Sin As Well!
    - Because Of The Fellowship That You Enjoy With Your Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - In These Verses:
    - Paul Is Reminding Us Of The Meaning Of The Lord's Supper - That We Celebrated Last Week - And Christians Throughout Church History Have As Well! It Is A Table That Unites Us Together In True Communion & Fellowship!
  - And This Fellowship:
    - Is Something That We Must Never Take Lightly Or For Granted! Remember What It Means!
- Fellowship With The Blood Of Christ!
  - 10:16a - "The Cup Of Blessing Which We Bless, Is It Not The Communion Of The Blood Of Christ?"
  - The Communion Cup:
    - A "Cup Of Blessing!"
    - Represents & Reminds Us Of All The Benefits & Blessings We Receive From Jesus Through His Shed Blood!
    - Which Is Why We Ought To Respond With Blessing / Thanksgiving / Praise!

- When You Drink From The Communion Cup:
  - It Not Only Reminds You Of Your Fellowship With Jesus Through His Blood!
  - But It Can Be A Special Way For You To Experience Fellowship With Jesus Your Savior!
- You Are Like One Of The Disciples, Sitting At The Last Supper!
  - When Jesus Himself: “Took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; / For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins!” (Matthew 26:27-28)
- Is This What It Did For You Last Week?
  - Draw You Closer To The Lord, Through Blessing & Worship?
- Remember Your Fellowship With Christ!
  - Through His Blood! And Flee From Even The Fringes Of Sin!
- Fellowship With The Body Of Christ!
  - 10:16b - “The Bread Which We Break, Is It Not The Communion Of The Body Of Christ?”
  - The Communion Bread:
    - “The Bread Which We Break!”
    - Represents & Reminds Us Of The Physical Body Of Jesus Christ!
    - Which Was Broken - So That He Might Share Himself & His Life With Many!
      - As He Did Several Times! Breaking Loaves Into Pieces To Distribute & Share With Others! 4,000 / 5,000 / More!
  - When You Eat The Communion Bread:
    - It Not Only Reminds Us That Jesus Christ Really Lived & Really Died!
    - But You Are Taking His Body & His Life For Your Own!
      - He Lived The Life We Needed To Live!
      - He Lived The Life We Could Never Live!
  - You Are Identifying Yourself As One Of His Own!
    - Matthew 26:26 - “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body!”
  - Is This What You Did With It Last Week?
    - Saying Through It: “Now I Belong To Jesus / Jesus Belongs To Me / Not For The Years Of Time Alone / But For Eternity!
  - Remember Your Fellowship With Christ!
    - With His Body! And Flee From Even The Fringes Of Sin!
- But Wait! There’s More To This Fellowship!
  - 10:17 - “For We Being Many Are One Bread, And One Body, For We Are All Partakers Of That One Bread!”
  - The Body Of Christ:
    - Means His Physical Body!
      - Which Was Broken So That We Might Become Whole!
    - Also Means His Spiritual Body!
      - Of His People! The Church!
  - When You Participate In The Lord’s Table:
    - It Shows That We Are One With Our Savior & One With Each Other!
    - One Bread For One Body!
      - **IE:** Lois Bakes Our Bread For Us - Starts Out As One Lump - Then Broken!
  - The Lord’s Table Is All About:
    - Fellowship / Friendship / Family!
    - As Manna Joined The Children Of Israel Together As One Nation / So Christ Joins Christians Together As One Body!
- And This Is Similar To Other Religions As Well, Paul States:
  - Participating In A Religious Meal Represents Fellowship!
  - 10:18 - “Behold Israel After The Flesh: Are Not They Which Eat Of The Sacrifices Partakers Of The Altar?”
  - The Point Paul Is Making Is This:
    - The Food Isn’t The Main Issue!
    - Fellowship Is! But The Food Can Represent The Wrong Kind Of Fellowship!
- So - Remember Your Fellowship!
  - With The Blood Of Christ!
  - With The Body Of Christ!

- With The People Of Christ!
- And Flee From Even The Fringe Of Sin! Flee From The Fellowship Of Others Who Don't Believe In Your God!

### 3. **Remember Your Foe!**

- 10:19-20 - "What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? / But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils!"
  - The Bible Tells Us Quite A Bit About Our Foe - The Devil!
    - 1 Peter 5:8 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour!"
    - 2 Corinthians 2:11 - "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices!"
  - And We Need To Remember:
    - The Desire Of Our Foe - The Devil!
    - The Devices Of Our Foe - The Devil!
    - He Is Trying To Get Us To Stay Along The Fringes Of Sin - Knowing That It Is Not Easy To Remain There!
  - So - What Paul Is Saying Is This - Here Is His Point:
- The Reality Of Idolatry:
  - 10:19 - "What Say I Then? That The Idol Is Any Thing, Or That Which Is Offered In Sacrifice To Idols Is Any Thing?"
    - Paul's Answer Is Clearly No!
  - We All Know, As Christians:
    - That An Idol Is Not Really A God! Not Alive!
      - 8:4 - "We Know That An Idol Is Nothing In The World!"
    - That A Sacrifice To An Idol Is Not Really A Sacrifice! Remains What It Is!
      - 8:8 - "But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse!"
  - We Must Remember The Meaning Attached To Them!
    - But Also:
- The Reason For Idolatry:
  - 10:20a - "But I Say, That The Things Which The Gentiles Sacrifice, They Sacrifice To Devils, And Not To God!"
    - Idol Worship & Self-Worship Is One Of Satan's Devices!
  - When Someone Is Setting Up A False God:
    - And Worshiping That False God!
    - They Are Actually Honoring / Sacrificing To / Worshiping / Serving Devils - Demons!
  - Even The Children Of Israel Did This!
    - Deuteronomy 32:17 - "They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not!"
- So - Remember Your Foe!
  - His Desires & His Devices!
  - And Flee From Even The Fringe Of Sin!
    - After All - Could Any Sin Be Considered An Act Of Worship To The Devil? Doesn't Sin Make A Person Their Own God? Your Own Lusts & Passions? As It Says In Philippians 3:19 - "Whose God Is Their Belly!"
  - All The More Reason To Flee From The Fringes Of Sin!
    - 10:20b - "And I Would Not That Ye Should Have Fellowship With Devils!"

### 4. **Remember Your Fear!**

- 10:21-22 - "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. / Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?"
  - A Christian Will Have A Conscience That Will Help Keep Them From Even The Fringes Of Sin!
    - If You Have No Care Or No Concern For Sin, Then It Is Evident That You Are Without Christ!
  - So Remember Your Fear!
- A Fear For Your Soul!
  - 10:21 Implies That A True Christian:

- One Who Has Drunk The Cup Of The Lord!
  - Spiritually! This Means That The Blood Of Jesus Christ Has Cleansed You From Your Sin!
- One Who Has Partaken Of The Lord's Table!
  - Spiritually! This Means That You Are Identified With Jesus, Because You Have Received Him As Your Savior! His Body Was Broken For You!
- Then You Will Have A Conscience That Will Render You Incapable Of Doing This!
  - "Ye **Cannot** Drink The Cup Of The Lord, And The Cup Of Devils!"
  - "Ye **Cannot** Be Partakers Of The Lord's Table, And The Table Of Devils!"
  - You Just Can't Do It!
    - You Can't Really Be A Christian And Participate In The Worship & Fellowship Of The Devil Through Sin!
  - "There Is No Neutral Middle Ground Between God And Satan, Good And Evil, Virtue And Vice!" (Kistemaker)
    - So Stay Away From The Middle! Flee From Even The Fringes Of Sin! Sin & Idolatry Is The Domain Of The Devil!
- A Fear Of God's Strength!
  - 10:22 - "Do We Provoke The Lord To Jealousy? Are We Stronger Than He?"
  - The Bible Teaches That God Is A Jealous God!
    - That Is - He Is Not Willing That Anyone Or Anything Else Receives The Glory He Alone Deserves And Is Due!
    - Exodus 20:5 - "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God!"
    - Exodus 34:14 - "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God!"
  - He Will Accept No Rivals!
    - And So Why Do We? Remember That A Christian Belongs To Noone Else But The Lord!
    - Why Would You Join Yourself In Fellowship With The Devil?
      - Through Idolatry Or Any Other Sin?
  - Remember The Strength Of The Lord!
    - You Are Not Stronger Than Him!
    - You Are No Match For The Strength Of His Will!
    - You Are No Match For The Strength Of His Love!
- So Remember Your Fear!
  - That: "It Is A Fearful Thing To Fall Into The Hands Of The Living God!" (Hebrews 10:31)
  - And Flee From The Fringes Of Sin!

### **Conclusion:**

1. Remember The Life Of Lot - Abraham's Nephew!
  - In Genesis 13 - After Abraham Graciously Divided The Land Between Them, And Lot Chose The Lush, Green Plain Of The Jordan River!
    - It Says In 13:12-13 - "Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. / But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly!"
  - In Other Words:
    - Lot Was Hanging Around The Fringes Of That Sinful City!
    - And Instead Of Fleeing - He Kept Moving Forward!
    - And In Genesis 19 - We Find Lot Now Sitting In The Gate Of Sodom! (19:1)
  - No Longer On The Fringe - But Right In The Middle Of That Sinful City!
    - And We All Know How It Turned Out!
    - He Lost His Home, His Wife & His Son's-In-Law!
2. We Must Stay Away From Even The Fringes Of Sin!
  - Remember To Flee!
    - Proverbs 4:14-15 - "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. / Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away!"
  - Remember Your Fellowship!
    - With Jesus! Remember What He Has Done For You, With His Body & Through His Blood! Remember That He Is Coming For You! 1 John 3:3 - "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure!"

- Remember Your Foe!
  - Don't Give In To His Devices! When The Pull & Temptation To Sin Seems So Strong - Remember Who Is On The Other End Of The Rope! And Let Go! And Run To Jesus - Your "Way To Escape!" (10:13)
- Remember Your Fear!
  - Fear The Lord! Fear The Sin - Your Sin - That Put Jesus On The Cross!

3. And Flee From Even The Fringe Of Sin!

***Grace Baptist Church***

***Stephen Elmer, Pastor***

***4245 North 200 West***

***Greenfield, Indiana 46140***

***317-326-2362***

***[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)***

***[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)***

***[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)***