

Two Sundays ago: (V1-13): Don't be ignorant of the things that happened to our fathers in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt.

They were ALL partakers of God's miraculous deliverance from Egypt: They were ALL delivered from the house of bondage and the tyranny & captivity of Pharaoh, and they were (ALL) wonderfully guided by God toward the Promised Land. But after their deliverance from Egypt, MANY of them provoked and irritated God by their unbelief and rebellion against His commands; they tempted/tested God's patience and longsuffering until He swore with an oath that THAT generation would not enter the Promised Land.

(V5-6A): "But with many of them, God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, TO THE INTENT" that we should NOT do as they did!

They were idolaters, fornicators, they tempted (tested God) and they murmured against God and Moses the servant of God.
Psalms 78:12-22

You, Church at Corinth are in danger of repeating history in your current course and trajectory. God wonderfully/powerfully saved the people of Israel in the exodus, and God has wonderfully and powerfully saved many of you in Corinth!

God didn't save you from your sins for you to stay in your sins, and for you to still have affections for your sins! To do so IRRITATES God and PROVOKES Him!

(V11): "All these things happened unto them for ensamples, and they are written for our admonition", to warn us to NOT provoke God as they did! God made examples of them to teach you!

(V12-WHEREFORE): Regrettably, MANY of the people, after DEPARTING from Egypt DEPARTED ALSO from God in unbelief! Christian, if you think to live the Christian life in your own strength, your own way, and with half of your heart in the world, you are sadly mistaken.

Harden not your hearts as in the provocation! Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God".

After Paul sternly rebuked them, he encouraged them: (V13). You're going to be tempted in the world! James 1:12, TEXT: 14-22

Lead me NOT into temptation but deliver me from evil!

(V14): "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry": RUN from sin! Don't sit there and look at it.

Listen you must be spiritually aware enough to NOT put yourself in situations in which you will be tempted to sin! Concerning IDOLATRY: RUN FROM IT! The world is full of idolatry! Psalm 78:54-61

You might say, what idolatry? I'm not worshiping graven images or bowing to statues. Idolatry comes in many forms, you may not be bowing to a religious relic or statue, but (like so many in the world today), that doesn't mean that you don't have any idols.

If you love your STUFF and devote all your time to the things of this world, your material stuff is your idol & first love. You can always tell what someone's idols are, because they become intensely angry if you accidentally mishandle or damage their idol, scratch their idol, drop their idol; or when you speak ill of or disrespect their idol. If you find yourself revering something/someone OTHER THAN GOD, you're guilty of idolatry!

Your idol MAY-BE YOU! Your job, your money, your house, etc.
Christian: FLEE from IDOLATRY in every form! It is a very dangerous sin! Exodus 34:12-14, Job 31:24-28

(V15): "I speak unto wise men; judge what I say"

I am appealing to your wisdom and your ability to discern between what is right and wrong in spiritual matters. Here specifically, in regard to the Lord's Supper. Consider and judge what I say!

Paul begins his argument here, with this appeal; this is instructional for every one of us as believers: Are you skilled in the Word of righteousness?

Do you possess enough wisdom from the Word to make sound Biblical judgments in things pertaining to the Christian life in this present world? Can you answer for yourself? Hebrews 5:12-14

(V16): 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? Don't forget FLEEING from IDOLATRY!

Paul was clearly speaking to the Corinthians about the Lord's table in which there is COMMUNION with our Lord. The word "Communion" used twice here is the Greek word "Koinonia". It is often translated into the English word "Fellowship". It means association or participation.

When you take up the cup of blessing to drink, and when you break the bread to eat, (in the physical elements) what you are saying is: His body was broken for my sins; my sins are cleansed/washed away by the blood of Christ. In the Lord's

supper, you are saying that there is a spiritual UNION that exists between you and the Lord Jesus! John 6:33-35, 48-58
If you would commune with Christ in the physical elements, you MUST first commune with and be a partaker of Christ by faith, (in the salvation of your soul); believing in His sacrificial death on the cross for your sins.

For those that eat/drink unworthily, eat/drink damnation to themselves!

(V17): "For we being many are ONE BREAD"

We are all partaking/communing together with Christ when we come to the Lord's supper; there is a spiritual UNION that exists between each one of us INDIVIDUALLY and Christ. For we are ALL partakers of that ONE bread!

Don't forget the whole context, Paul is warning the Corinthian believers (V14) to "Flee from idolatry". Now he is reasoning with them from the vantage point of the Lord's Supper.

(V18): "Behold, Israel after the flesh in the OT: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?"

If we are all coming together as ONE BODY to the table of the Lord Jesus, we are ALL partakers with Christ. 1 Corinthians 9:13

If you're a partaker at the altar, or at the communion table of Christ, then you're a partaker with Christ!

Now I hope you understand Paul's reasoning to the Corinthians; to partake of a sacrifice in the temple of an idol, you become ONE with the other participants; therefore, you are a partaker with them, and therefore, brought into communion with their idol or false god, because you came to the altar of their false god.

(V19): What say I then, or (what am I saying?). That the idol is anything? Or that which is offered in sacrifice to the idol is anything? (Cf. 8:4)

EVERY false god is imaginary and no god at all! There is no God but One. The idol is nothing, and that which is offered to the idol is nothing; it's perishable food and drink. There is no spiritual efficacy in any of it.

BUT it is STILL IDOLATRY!

Listen: It is true that an idol is nothing, but behind every idol (whatever that idol might be), there are devils, evil spirits, and the forces of hell drawing you away from Christ. Forget the idol, look behind the idol! NO, the idol is NOT REAL, but the DEVIL and the FORCES OF HELL behind the idol ARE VERY REAL! Ephesians 6:12, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

1 Corinthians 10:20: "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils,

(devils/wicked spirits are behind every heathen sacrifice and under every one of their altars), not God): and I would not that ye would have fellowship with devils"
Judges 2:10-14, Psalm 106:34-43

Beloved, let us cast off and destroy EVERY IDOL from our lives KNOWING that the devil is behind every idol which we hold dear! Let us be so careful of "mingling in the world", learning the ways of the world, and in-turn bowing to the idols of the world! 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

1 Corinthians 10:21-22

So don't foolishly provoke the Lord to jealousy by going to an idol's temple; communing with devils at the table of an idol, and then think to come to my table and my altar and commune with me! Think about that husbands and wives, if your spouse showed affections for another and then came home to you. How would you feel? Isaiah 54:5

"For thy Maker is thy husband"