

**It's been a while since we were in 1 Corinthians:**

We left off (Chapter 10:23), in which, the Apostle Paul was warning the church @ Corinth about the dangers of idolatry.

The city of Corinth was full of idolatry, and (it seems) some of the saints had become comfortable partaking in feasts in idols temples. This involved coming to the table with idol worshipers and partaking of a feast (food) which had been dedicated to the idol. Paul warned the Corinthians believers, telling them; you're entering into communion with the idol!

1 Corinthians 10:21: "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"

Listen, when you come to the table of the Lord Jesus, you are communing intimately with the Lord. THE TABLE of the Lord doesn't bring you into communion with Christ, it is the EVIDENCE of your communion with Christ. It is the outward manifestation that you are UNITED to Christ; married to Christ! It is a demonstration of your love to Christ and Christ alone!

Remember, before any here partake of the Lord's supper we emphasize that there MUST be a UNION with Christ by faith, before there is COMMUNION with Christ in the Lord's Supper!

**Take that thought to the idol's temple:** If you're partaking of a feast in an idol's temple, eating a feast that was dedicated or offered up in praise of the idol, you are communing with, and are a partaker with the idol!

Paul already taught us that the idol is nothing, and not a god at all, and food offered to idols is ordinary food, but it's who is behind the idol; that is what you must be aware of. 1 Corinthians 10:18-20

**Understand that you cannot be a worshiper of God and worshiper of the devil.**

Allow me to bring this passage fast forward and apply it in our day; we don't have a bunch of idol temples around Ponchatoula and Springfield, but we DO live in a world full of idols; **ALL courtesy of the god of this world!**

Christian! You cannot love God and (at the same time) love the world. By the world, I mean the world's philosophies, its customs, and its expensive and shiny idols, which are all meant to draw you away from Christ!

You cannot eat, drink, (and commune intimately) with the world, you cannot partake of and engage in its customs and sinful practices and think to come to the table of the Lord with a devoted and sincere heart. If you're intimate with the world, THEN you're NOT intimate with Christ!

The Christian life is NOT halting between (2) opinions! You cannot have a heart for Christ, and a heart for the world!

If this is HOW you're living your Christian life, know that your idolatry; your love for this world and the god of this world is offensive to God! You are provoking God, like the OT children of Israel after their exodus from Egypt in their journeyings toward the Promised Land.

Remember 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

Paul warned the Corinthians believers of "provoking the Lord" by committing "spiritual adultery" against Him.

(Verse 22): Are we provoking the Lord to jealousy, (BY) partaking of things that we should not be participating in (IN) the world? Things that are offensive to God? Are we stronger than he?

**(Verse 23): NOW WE TRANSITION TO OUR LIBERTY:**

"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not"

Paul already used this reasoning to teach the saints at Corinth that sexual immorality was NOT something that they had liberty to partake of.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Fornication was COMMON in the city of Corinth just like it is today; idolatry was also COMMON in Corinth, (and although it may look different today), the sin of idolatry is alive and well in the world! These sins had permeated their society, and so it was viewed, (even by the saints @ Corinth) as normal/natural/acceptable behavior.

This should raise the question in our minds; are there any sins that are common sins in the world, but also in us?

There were those in the church who thought they were free (or, that they had liberty) to go to an idol's temple and partake of the cup of devils, and then come to the house of God AND PARTAKE of the cup of the Lord.

Paul asserted to them; YOU CANNOT MUST NOT DO THIS!

**We DO have liberty in Christ, in things that are NOT forbidden by the commands of God, (in things indifferent), but what the Corinthians were not things indifferent, it was sin against God.**

Something "indifferent" is something that is neither good nor evil, and yet, even things that are NOT sinful in and of themselves can be made to be sinful; when they hurt and wound our brethren spiritually.

When Paul wrote: "All things are lawful unto me", he was NOT promoting an (ANYTHING GOES ATTITUDE), in things that are sinful and against the commands of the God. He was talking about "THINGS" that are not specifically forbidden in the Word of God.

But AGAIN, even when we do partake of, or DO "SOMETHING" that is not forbidden in the Word of God; the question for us needs to be: "Is it expedient?"

Is it helpful, profitable, and beneficial to your soul,  
and for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ?

And then, how does it look? Does it help or hurt the Name of Christ and the gospel? Does it offend/wound weaker brethren in Christ?

There are "Christians" in the world who tout their  
LIBERTY to do whatever they want to do.....and dare you  
tell them anything!

You MIGHT INDEED have Christian liberty to do something, but IS what you're doing helping or hurting the cause of Christ in your brethren in Christ? 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

If, after considering this you take your liberty anyway, (not caring that your brother/sister might be offended); NOW you are NOT walking charitably toward your brother/sister and your liberty has become sin.

(Verse 23): "All things are lawful (or permissible) for  
me, but all things are not expedient (or profitable or  
beneficial); all things are lawful (or permissible) for  
me, but all things edify not" (or, all things do not  
strengthen faith in Christ in others or in ourselves)

**(Verse 24): "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's  
wealth"**

Think of your Christian liberty this way; is it benefiting your brother or sister in Christ? Your friend and neighbor?

"Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good  
to edification"