

I Corinthians 10:1-14 Fighting Temptations 3/30/2025

Intro: "What are you doing?" Kid caught with his hand in the cookie jar said, "I am fighting temptation!"

Preemptive work is best weapon in overcoming temptation.

The Corinthians had a shallow view of Christian liberty, which stemmed from taking idolatry lightly. **I Cor. 8**

"Since there is no other god; and an idol is not real in and of itself, then it is ok to be in and around the old ways constantly, just do not believe what the unbelievers believe and all will be well." They seemed to view it this way.

It was typical to not really believe in the idols, but participate in every other way with the trappings of the idol which included getting drunk, eating food that represented something connected to the idol, having a big party and calling out the name of the idol as you did so.

It seems many of them transferred this over to the Love Feast and Lord Supper services of Christians.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not charms, and are not to be taken lightly!

Not making a clear, sober distinction between the old pagan social scene and the Lord's Supper will bring severe judgement on believers. **I Cor. 11**

TEXT: I Corinthian 10:1-14 *****

Paul uses the Old Testament as an example. *This section is a warning to stay well clear of idolatry.*

Question: What is idolatry at its roots? *It is anything that causes you to stray from God.*

There is a source of power behind idolatry. That source is purely demonic! Many times hidden and veiled as something harmless.

10: 1-4 The pre-incarnate work of Christ. He took on flesh at Bethlehem, but has always been!

Micah 5:2, II Cor. 5:18-19, John 14:8-11, John 1: 1-5,14, John 8: 56-59, Hebrews 13:8

Christ, pre-incarnate, was the miraculous supply then, as He is now.

Note the continuity between the O.T. people of God and the N.T. people of God.

There is no separate plan for Israel and another for Gentiles. **Ephesians 2 and 3** make that clear!

10:1 Exodus 13:21 “Cloud by day” - “Fire by night” What a great comfort for them.

“Sea”- Red Sea crossing

10:2 Baptized- “to identify with” The most general use of the word “baptize.”

Ex. **Mark 10: 35-40** “,,, are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”

10:3 “Food” Manna was a supernaturally-provided food, as Christ is the supernaturally-provided spiritual food. **John 6: 26- 40, 47-58**

10:4 “Drink” Also provided supernaturally to Israel till they crossed the desert, but in Christ it is permanent to believers. Once at Rephidim- **Exodus 17: 6**, and again at Kadesh. **Numbers 20:11.**

Jesus provided for them and traveled with them in the desert in His pre-incarnate state, but now with all believers as the Living Water that is permanent.

John 4: 7-14, 7:37-39 promise of the Holy Spirit that brings Living Water.

10:5 Note the “all,” and then, “**with most of them.**” Only Caleb and Joshua lived in the Promised Land who were from that first generation.

Questions: What temptations did they face? How is it relative to what the Corinthians faced? What about the temptations you face? Are you wise enough to take a clear example from history and learn from it?

The **time** it happened is not as important as the **fact** that it happens in all human experience. The illogical pull away from God. No technology will advance the human condition. Only God can change man. He can only change a man who is willing to get out of the death spiral of sin.

10:6 “Crave evil things” – The craving caused by impatience, desire for instant gratification, giving up on God’s long-term training program, settling for a cheap fix.

Ex. Many say this by their life- “ Life is about what I think I need, and my own plan for happiness. **I do not trust that God** knows more about my happiness than me!”

Question: Israel thought this; The Corinthians thought this; Do you think this?

10:7-11 Idolatry - Immorality - To try the Lord – Grumbling

Idolatry- Exodus 32-33 Golden calf. Give me something I can see and touch because that gives me a sense that I am in control! Who can trust an invisible God?

10:8- Immorality - I Corinthians 6. Joseph had to run to get clear of immorality and Timothy was told to flee immorality.

10:9 -Try the Lord- Testing His patience! Daring God's judgement. Delayed obedience is disobedience! Presumption!

Exodus 17:7 " He named the place 'Massah' (test) and 'Meribah' (quarrel) because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us, or not?' "

Ex. Most do not pray till they have to. When things are good they feel in control. When things are bad? "Does God really care or not. Why did he not prevent that tragedy?"

Ex. Disciples in the boat with Jesus asleep and a storm on top of them, "Do you not care that we are perishing!" Mark 4:38

Ex. Gideon- **Judges 6:13** "... but now the Lord has abandoned us..."

The point is: God cannot catch a break. Which leads to the next point,,, Whining!

10:10- Grumbling- A chronic despair, always thinking they know better and cannot faithfully wait for any good thing that might take patience! The eye-rolling, nagging, weakling who drags everything down, every day. The one who has a perennial grievance! The most destructive person in any church! The one who discourages everything good!

Ex. Rebellion of Korah Numbers 16:41 Spoken to Moses and Aaron, "You are the ones who caused the death of the Lord's people!" 14,700 and the leaders with Korah 250.

10:11 As a kid when we saw someone really get in trouble. "You don't need to tell me twice!"

10:12-13 Two of the best verses ever!

10:12 It all starts with complacency, like the Corinthians! And Pride sets in!

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling."

Ex. That was the lesson of 9/11/2001.

10:13 ekbasin - "a way out"- Word used many times to refer to a mountain de'file.' A mountain pass that leads out of a location surrounded by impassible mountains. Stay far away from the triggers of your temptations. But if unavoidable, look for that exit. God will provide.

10:14 Do not "lone-ranger" your life . The body of Christ is there for a reason!