

First Corinthians 10:1-13

**The importance of making distinctions—10:1-5** <sup>1</sup> *But I do not want you<sup>pl</sup> to be ignorant (of the significance), brothers, that ...*

- 1) Five national privileges—10:1-4
  - a) *all our (Jewish) fathers were under the cloud*, (cf. Exodus 13:21; Psalm 105:39)
  - b) *and all passed through the sea*, (cf. Exodus 14:22; Psalm 78:13)
  - c) <sup>2</sup> *and all had themselves immersed into Moses in the cloud and in the sea*,
  - d) <sup>3</sup> *and all ate the same spiritual food*, (cf. Exodus 16:4; Psalm 78:23-29; literal manna from God)
  - e) <sup>4</sup> *and all drank the same spiritual drink*, (cf. Exodus 17:6; Psalm 78:15-16; literal water from God)
    - i) *for they were drinking from a spiritual Rock that followed them; and the rock was Christ*. (cf. at beginning in Exodus 17:1-7 and at end in Numbers 20:1-13)
- 2) Possible disapproval—10:5 <sup>5</sup> **But** (strong contrast) *God did not take delight in most of them*, (cf. 9:24-27 [*adokimos*]; Numbers 26:65)
  - a) How do we know that? *for they were scattered in the wilderness*. (cf. Numbers 14:29)
  - b) Spiritual privileges do not guarantee automatic acceptance with God.

**The importance of examples—10:6-13** <sup>6</sup> *Now these things became examples [*tupos*] for us, so that we would not be cravers of evil things as they also craved*. (cf. Numbers 11:4-34)

- 1) Four commands to avoid specific cravings—10:6-10 (4 examples of Israel's failure)
  - a) Avoid self-ward indulgence—<sup>7</sup> *Do not become idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to revel*. (cf. Exodus 32:1-6)
  - b) Avoid self-ward pleasure—<sup>8</sup> *Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them committed sexual immorality, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day*. (cf. Exodus 32:28, 35) (probably not Numbers 25)
  - c) Avoid self-ward confidence—<sup>9</sup> *Nor let us test Christ as some of them tested, and destroyed themselves by snakes*. (cf. Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 78:18)
  - d) Avoid self-ward discontent—<sup>10</sup> *Nor complain, as some of them complained, and destroyed themselves by the Destroyer*. (cf. Numbers 16:41-49)
- 2) Two uses of the Old Testament for New Testament believers—10:11-13
  - a) Uses—10:11
    - i) Present age—<sup>11</sup> *Now, all these things happened to them as examples [*tupos*]*,
    - ii) Coming age—*and they were written for our admonition [*nouthesia*], upon whom the culminations of the ages have arrived*. (cf. Hebrews 9:26)
  - b) Application—10:12-13 (cf. returning to the temples to eat meat to avoid ostracism)
    - i) Your self-confidence is dangerous—<sup>12</sup> *Therefore, let the one who presumes himself to be standing be careful that he does not fall*. (cf. Proverbs 16:18)
    - ii) Your situation is not unique—<sup>13</sup> *No testing has seized you<sup>pl</sup> that is not characteristic of people* (cf. 10:7-10).
    - iii) Remember the faithfulness (trustworthiness to act in accordance with His word) of God—*But God is faithful*,
    - iv) Remember the providence of God—*who will not permit you<sup>pl</sup> to be tested beyond what you<sup>pl</sup> are able, but with the testing will provide the way of escape also, so that you<sup>pl</sup> will be able to endure it*.