

First Corinthians 10:14-22
It's About Covenant Faithfulness

Paul commands the Corinthian believers—10:14-15

- 1) To flee—¹⁴ *For this very reason* (cf. 10:1-12), *my beloved ones, flee from idolatry.* (through the escape hatch God has provided)
 - a) Remember the impact idolatry had on Israel, even though they ate God's manna.
 - b) Consider idolatry as spiritual radioactive waste. How should you respond to it?
- 2) To think—¹⁵ *I am speaking to prudent people; you^{pl} must judge what I say.*
 - a) Be willing to acknowledge that what Paul writes is right.

Paul illustrates the principle—10:16-22 (table fellowship connotes intimate relations)

- 1) Consider the solidarity emphasized in the Lord's Supper—10:16-17
 - a) The physical elements of the Lord's Supper symbolize the blood and body of Christ
 - i) ¹⁶ *The cup of blessing* (thanksgiving; cf. 11:25) *that we bless, is it not a sharing of the blood of Christ?* (assumed Yes)
 - (1) This refers to the cup at the end of a Jewish meal. ("Blessed be You, Lord God, King of the Universe, who crated the fruit of the vine.") This is the basis for praying before distributing the elements of the Lord's Supper.
 - ii) *The bread that we break, is it not a sharing of the body of Christ?* (assumed Yes)
 - b) Our solidarity is symbolized in one loaf of bread—¹⁷ *Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.*
 - c) Participation involves identification and solidarity.
- 2) Consider the solidarity of sacrifices both Jewish and Gentile—10:18-20
 - a) Jewish sacrifices—¹⁸ *Look at Israel according to the flesh. Are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers of the altar?* (cf. Deuteronomy 14:22-27)
 - b) Gentile sacrifices—¹⁹ *So, what am I saying? That an idol is anything, or that what is sacrificed to idols is anything?* (assumed No) ²⁰ *No, but that the things that the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you^{pl} to become sharers of demons.* (cf. Deuteronomy 32:17)
 - c) Temple meals create solidarity with the deity of the temple. There is no such thing as casual sacrifice, however innocent one's intent.
- 3) The incompatibility of the Lord's Supper and meals at the idol temples—10:21-22
 - a) Christ's exclusiveness and our spiritual inability—10:21
 - i) ²¹ *You^{pl} are not able to drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons;*
 - ii) *you^{pl} are not able to partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.*
 - iii) You can't participate in temple meals with your unsaved friends without provoking Christ's jealousy.
 - b) Christ's jealousy and our inherent weakness—10:22 ²² *Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy?* (cf. Deuteronomy 32:21-24) *We are not stronger than He is, are we?* (assumed No)
 - i) The jealousy of God (cf. Exodus 20:5; 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24; 5:9; 6:14-15; Joshua 24:19-20; 1st Kings 14:22-23; Psalm 78:58; Ezekiel 8:3; Nahum 1:2; Zephaniah 1:18) (Cf. also Acts 15:23-29)
 - ii) Is it really worth risking Christ's jealousy for all the supposed advantages of retaining all our Gentile contacts and sharing in the meals of pagan temples?