



1 Corinthians 10

INTRODUCTION:

- People have said, *“Those who never learn from history are doomed to make the same mistakes they did in the past.”* Do you agree with that?

- Can you think of some examples of that phrase being proven true?

- Agree / Disagree: *The modern practice of skipping over history, and especially of twisting and reinventing history through a modern lens is diabolical and deadly to souls and our culture.*

- Can you point to examples of this?

Warnings from Israel’s History:

1 Corinthians 10:1-10

1 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. **2** They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. **3** They all ate the same spiritual food **4** and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. **5** Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. **7** Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: *“The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.”* **8** We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. **9** We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. **10** And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

- Why do you think Paul had to issue these strong warnings from Israel’s past to the Corinthians? What sorts of things were they getting into?
- What spiritual truth is Paul teaching them by saying they were “baptized / ate and drank spiritual food and drink / the Rock was Christ”?
- What happened that caused the tragedy of verse 5, and what can we learn from it?
- What 3 sins does Paul point out that led to their destruction, and that stand as strong warnings to us?

- Agree / Disagree: *People haven't learned, today these 3 issues are still destroying God's people.*

- Explain what these sins may look like in our midst:

- Idolatry:
- Sexual Immorality:
- Grumbling:

- Why doesn't God bring the swift judgment today that He brought upon them back then?

Do Not Test the LORD:

1 Corinthians 10:11-13

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. **12** So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! **13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

- How do these verses (and indeed this whole section) square with Calvinist theology of "once saved, always saved"?
- "_____ goes before a fall." Explain how that phrase fits here and why it's so important for us to understand that lesson:

- The word "tempted" could also be translated "tested". What's the difference, is there a difference, and what do you prefer / why?

- What key truth is in the phrase, "*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind.*"?

- Is verse 12 talking about falling into sin, or about falling away from faith entirely?

- What key truth is in the phrase, "*God will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.*"?

- Agree / Disagree: *Whenever we fall into sin, we prove that we don't believe that.*

- How, exactly, does God always provide a way out?
List as many potential options as you can think of:

- Agree / Disagree: *If we could actually try to put these truths into practice we'd then see how God actually keeps this promise.*

Fellowship:

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. **15** I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. **16** Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? **17** Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

18 Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? **19** Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? **20** No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. **21** You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. **22** Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

- In these verses Paul connects the principle he talked about before with the application of this principle. How does verse 14 establish that link?
- What is the connection Paul is making in verses 16-17?

- That word "participation" could also be translated: in _____.

- Very literally then, in the Lord's Supper what 4 things are present?

_____ & _____
_____ & _____

- What's the horizontal aspect of the Lord's Supper mentioned in v.17?
 - How does that apply to Paul's point here about idolatry?
- Paul said they could not "have a part in the Lord's table and the table of demons." What does he mean by that? What do you think was going on among them?
 - Does this mean I can never attend a service in a different denomination / a different religion?
- Agree / Disagree: *Do whatever you can, to get yourself as far away from idolatry as possible.*
 - What did that mean for the Corinthians back then?
 - What does that mean for us here today? What are the modern demons / demon worship that's going on all around us?
- Agree / Disagree: *When Christians live very secular lives and look very secular on the outside, they are cozying up to demons and doing exactly what Paul warns us about here.*
 - How are we to live our lives in a world of secular humanism, when it's quite simply everywhere?

Freedom Used Properly:

1 Corinthians 10:23-33

23 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. **24** No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

25 Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, **26** for, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”

27 If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. **28** But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. **29** I am referring to the other person’s conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another’s conscience? **30** If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. **32** Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— **33** even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

- Put verses 23-24 in your own words:

- How do these principles apply, for example, in our worship lives and the worship style we use here at church?

- What other areas can you think of where these verses directly apply to our congregational lives / our Christian lives?

- Paul established the freedom we have to eat meat bought from a market, even if it may have been used in pagan idolatry somehow. What does he tell us in verses 28-29 that would make a person NOT eat that meat?

- Verses 31-33 summarize Paul’s point and the principle clearly, what is it?

- Paul helped them apply these truths in their context. How do these truths apply in our context? Examples?

- Agree / Disagree: *The most difficult path is always the best and the most loving option.*

CONCLUSION:

- Agree / Disagree: *It’s no more difficult to be a Christian in any culture or at any point in time, the difficult thing is to find out what principles apply to us and having the courage to put them into practice.*

- What are the key lessons for us in this chapter of Scripture?

CLOSING PRAYER: