

1 Corinthians Part Two

Lesson #6, Chapter 10:14-22

Please read all of Chapter 10 in preparation for this lesson. Ask the Lord for His grace and for insight into His Word.

1. Verse 14 begins with *therefore* which means it somehow relates to the preceding information. Explain how the command of verse 14 ties in with verses 1-13.
2. Though there is a path from verses 1-13 to verse 14, verse 14 *also* picks up the ribbon of thought Paul began in Chapter 8. Explain how this braid of thought all connects together after looking at the following key points in Paul's instruction to the Corinthians. See 1 Cor. 8:4-6, 7,9-10; 9:1, 12, 19-23, 24-27; 10:6, 11-13, and finally ending with verse 14.
3. How would the Corinthians have understood Paul's command to *flee idolatry*? See Ps. 96:7; 1 Cor. 10:20-21; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; 1 Thess. 1:9.
4. Describe what it means to *flee* from something.
5. What things are we to flee? See 1 Cor. 6:18; 10:14; 1 Tim. 6:9-11; 2 Tim. 2:22.
6. Explain what idolatry is in its most basic form. See also 1 Sam. 15:23 and Col. 3:5.
7. Why is it essential for any believer to flee idolatry?

8. What are some areas of idolatry you feel you are prone?
 - a. According to verse 14 how do you need to respond to your areas of idolatry?
 - b. Explain how you can put that command into practice in specific ways.
9. How does Paul set the stage for the instruction to come in verse 15?
10. What are the answers to the two questions posed in verse 16?
11. What is Paul referring to in verse 16? See also 1 Cor. 11:23-26.
12. Define *share* [Strong's #2842 (ESV, NIV *participation*; NKJV *communion*)].
13. Define *partake* [Strong's #3348].
14. What point is Paul trying to make as he emphasizes the sharing and joining in together that is part of the Lord's Supper in verses 16-17?

15. Paul first gives the example of the Lord's Supper to stress the corporate aspect of worship in the body of Christ. What is his second example as seen in verse 18? See also 1 Cor. 9:13.

16. Verse 19 returns us, almost abruptly, to the discussion Paul began in Chapter 8 about eating meat sacrificed to idols (see Chapter 8 verses 1 and 4). The issue takes on a more serious tone in this section, however. What happens when Gentiles sacrifice to idols? See verses 20-21.

17. Though the believers had freedom to eat meat sacrificed to idols what does Paul want to make perfectly clear in verses 20-21?

18. The Corinthians needed to learn the art of enjoying their freedoms in Christ, like eating meat sacrificed to idols. But they *also* needed to learn not to overstep those bounds and fall into sin by actually engaging in pagan worship. Like them, we also need to learn to draw the line at anything that causes us to sin or diminishes our love and worship to God. Based on what you've learned from 1 Cor. 8:7-13 and 10:22, how can you put these principles into practice in your life?

19. How can you provoke the Lord to jealousy according to verses 14-21? See also Ex. 20:5; 34:14; Deut. 4:23-24.

20. William Kelly in his commentary on 1 Corinthians said, "Love cannot but be jealous of wandering affections, it would not be love if it did not resent unfaithfulness."¹ What does God desire from His children? See Deut. 10:12; Josh. 22:5; Luke 10:27.

¹ William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 1 Co 10:22.

21. Again, we must ask: Why is the idea of *sharing* and *joining* in together a crucial part of Paul's instruction here in verses 19-22? What is it that God wants us to understand here?

22. What situation might have prompted Paul to caution the believers to remember, *We are not stronger than He, are we?* See verses 11-14. Why is that a fitting caution when we call to mind that the Lord is jealous for our affections?

23. Now let's wrap everything up: What do verses 16-22 have to do with idolatry and the need to flee from it (as we saw in verse 14)?

24. It might be tempting to store away these verses as something to remember when counseling someone else, but these lessons are for you and me today. What in your life provokes the Lord to jealousy? How would the Lord desire to you to deal with that situation?

I see Christ's love is so kingly, that it will not abide an equal partner:
it must have a throne all alone in the soul. ~Samuel Rutherford²

² Samuel Rutherford, *The Loveliness of Christ* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, reprinted 2008), pg. 27.