A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

HOLINESS IN FREEDOM: IDOLATRY

1 Corinthians 10:1-22

"**Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.**"

– George Santayana, *The Life of Reason, 1905*

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1 Corinthians 10:1-22

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 NIV

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.

1 Corinthians 10:5-6 NIV

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.**

1 Corinthians 10:7-10 NIV

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.

ISRAEL'S NEGATIVE EXAMPLE

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-10

Idol Worship

Sexual Immorality

Testing God

Grumbling

02

**HOLINESS IN FREEDOM:
IDOLATRY**

ISRAEL'S NEGATIVE EXAMPLE

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-10

Overthrown

Fell

Destroyed

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 NIV

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!

Looking at the example of Israel in the Old Testament should cause us to take our own sin seriously.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ^{NIV}

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.

1 Corinthians 10:14-15 NIV

Therefore, my dear friends, **flee from idolatry.** 15 I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.

1 Corinthians 10:16-18 NIV

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?

1 Corinthians 10:19-21 NIV

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.

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1 Corinthians 10:1-22

1 Corinthians 10:22 ^{NIV}

Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

"The kingdom spreads slowly but relentlessly, one new believer at a time. Every church is a pocket of resistance, every baptism another pledge of allegiance to the Most High, every celebration of the Lord's Supper a denial of fellowship with lesser masters and a proclamation of the success of Yahweh's mysterious plan."

MICHAEL S. HEISER, *THE UNSEEN REALM*

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1 Corinthians 10:1-22

"If we are deeply moved by the sight of his love for us, it detaches our hearts from other would-be saviors. We stop trying to redeem ourselves through our pursuits and relationships, because we are already redeemed. We stop trying to make others into saviors, because we have a Savior."

TIM KELLER, *COUNTERFEIT GODS*