

“Israel’s Example”

1 Corinthians Chapter 10

In Chapters 8, 9 and 10 Paul is dealing with Christian Liberty.

Chapter 8 -	The Weak Christian Troubled to eat meat sacrificed to idols Idols are nothing so eating meat was “ok” but	The Mature Christian Bold in Christian Liberty and eats the meat Paul puts the responsibility on the mature to deny themselves to nurture the weaker.
Chapter 9 -	Paul describes himself as a good example of one who is mature, denying his rights for the sake of others.	
Chapter 10 -	Israel’s failure is an example for Christians pertaining to Unprofitable Christian liberty.	

1Cr 10:1
Israel’s
Liberty

1) Israel’s Failure as Example of Improper Christian Liberty vs 1-13

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea;

1Cr 10:2

and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1Cr 10:3

and all ate the same spiritual food;

1Cr 10:4

and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

- “I do not want you to be unaware” is strongly saying “PAY ATTENTION HERE!” / “GET THIS!”
 - We too need to be taught the accounts, prophecies, and songs of the Old Testament
- Paul is talking to a Gentile church. He tells them to “remember OUR fathers” This Gentile church has a place in the heritage of Israel.
- All Under the Cloud - **Cloud that Lead them**
 - Exodus 13:21+22 “And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, [from] before the people.”
 - Psalm 46:1 “God [is] our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
 - Hebrews 13:5 “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you”
- All Passed through the Sea - **Miraculous Deliverance**
 - Exodus 14:9-31
 - Pharaoh chased after the Israelites after he let them go.
 - Moses stretched out his staff. The waters parted the people passed through on dry land.
 - Pharaoh chased them into the parted sea.
 - On the other side, once again Moses stretched out his staff and the waters closed upon the Egyptians.
 - The People rejoiced and feared God.
 - The Passover Lamb was the catalyst that secured their Deliverance
 - Jesus is the Passover Lamb
 - John 1:29 Of John the Baptist scripture says, “The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
- All baptized into Moses - **Identified (Baptizo) with Moses**
 - Exodus 14:31 says “When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.”
 - Acts 2:38 Peter preached “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."
- All ate the same spiritual food - **Manna (daily bread)**
 - Exodus 16:4 "Then the LORD said to Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you"
 - Exodus 16:31 "The house of Israel named it manna, and it was like coriander seed, white, and its taste was like wafers with honey."
 - Exodus 16:35 "The sons of Israel ate the manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate the manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan."
 - John 6:31-41 "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.' Jesus then said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.'" Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven."
 - Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread."
- All drank the same spiritual drink - **Water from the Rock**
 - Exodus 17:6 at Meribah the Lord told Moses "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel."
 - John 4:13-14 To the woman at the well, "Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."
- That Rock was Christ - **The Messiah**
 - The rock that followed them. Did that mean it mystically rolled on the ground bringing up the rear as they marched through the wilderness? NO. The Greek word for follow is "*akoloutheo*" which means likeness or patterned.
 - This is meaning that the provision of the rock, being struck and providing refreshing (living) water is the pattern of Christ.

Interesting Note: the list Paul brings up also illuminates the two sacraments that the church celebrates.

- 1) Baptism
- 2) Communion (spiritual food and drink)

We often in studying the Old Testament say, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to have been there and experienced God in such a tangible way." We are all thinking how strong our walk would be with that kind of reality around us.

1Cr 10:5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the Israel's Failure wilderness.

- God was not pleased with MOST of them.
 - Only two did not die off and entered into the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb.
- They were "laid low" (KJV = scattered or overthrown) meaning they died in the wilderness.
- A new generation rose up in those 40 years that were granted entrance into the Promised Land.

1Cr 10:6 Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

- Here we are hearing Paul's point for bringing up Israel. They are an example for us.
- We are not to DESIRE evil things.
 - The Children of Israel desired thing that were outside of the will of God. These are evil things.
 - Throughout Exodus and Numbers we see that Israel grumbled and murmured even though the Lord's presence was with them and blessed them.
 - Blessings included: Cloud by day - Shelter from Desert Heat; Fire by Night - Shelter from Evening chill; Food from heaven and Water from a rock as well as their shoes didn't wear out. (Deut 29:5)
 - Exodus 16:3 "The sons of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the LORD'S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."
 - Numbers 11 The children of Israel grumbled about manna and wanted meat to eat. God gave them Quail so much that they choked on it. verse 33+34 "And while the flesh [was] yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague. And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted."

1Cr 10:7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY."

- Exodus 32:6 When they had Aaron make a golden calf.

1Cr 10:8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

- Baalam hired to curse the Children of Israel. But all he could do is bless God's people.
- He couldn't curse them but he did teach them to commit immorality with Moabite women and ultimately worship their gods.
- Numbers 25:9 tells us the result is a plague that 24000 died.

1Cr 10:9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.

- Numbers 21:5+6 "The people spoke against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food." The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died."

1Cr 10:10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

- The Children of Israel grumbled or murmured in
 - Exodus 15:24
 - Exodus 16:2
 - Exodus 17:3
 - Numbers 14:2
 - Numbers 16:41
- Truly ungratefulness is a tool from the destroyer that will breed discontentment that will open the door for opportunity to crave and fulfill evil things.

1Cr 10:11
Example for
Us

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

- This repeated phrase is important. Israel's History is a lesson for us. We can learn from the mistakes of others
- Being the 3rd child in our family there were many lessons I learned from the mistakes of the older brother and sister.
- Jeremiah 3:8 "And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also."
 - God expected Judah to learn from Israel's experience. The same is true with the Church.

1Cr 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

1Cr 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

- SIX LESSONS FROM ISRAEL'S HISTORY
 - 1) Pride comes before the fall
 - The difference between standing and falling is HEEDING lessons from God
 - 2) Temptation - Nothing New Under the Sun
 - There is not new temptations in our day that was not didn't exist before.
 - But there wasn't Internet Porn in Jesus day. No but lust was. Adultery was. The temptation is the same, just the methods are changing.
 - Jesus was tempted by Satan. This was the devils best shot. Lust of the flesh, Lust of the eyes, and the Pride of life. These were the same issues that tempted Eve in the garden.
 - Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."
 - 3) God is Faithful
 - Even when we are unfaithful God remains true
 - Faithful = unchanging, Steadfast in affection, firm adherence to a promise
 - 4) God knows your limits
 - God DOESN'T ALLOW you to be tempted beyond your limits
 - This being true, giving in to temptation is failure of OUR part. We can resist whatever we are tempted in. Any sin that we couldn't resist God doesn't even allow it to be in our lives.
 - 5) God gives you an escape route
 - Going back to Jesus temptation - 3x Jesus said "IT IS WRITTEN." This is how Jesus fought temptation, and defeated it.
 - James 4:7 "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
 - 6) You need to take it
 - God makes the way of escape. He doesn't make you take it. It is your responsibility.
 - You can endure it. You do not have to yield to temptation.
 - We desire something different. We simply want no temptation in our lives.
 - God wants us to be strong. To be able to make godly choices. To be able to resist the evil one. To bring Glory to God in a fallen world.

1Cr 10:14

2) One More Time; What About Eating Idol Meat? vs 14-22

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

- For 2 ½ chapters Paul has been dealing with Christian Liberty, and in particular eating meat sacrificed to idols.
- First ½ of this chapter Paul has used Israel's history to illustrate how God sets man at liberty and yet mankind has the ability to ruin His blessing and ruin their own lives by believing there is no limit to their liberty.
 - Verse 13 God limits our temptation but we are to endure what we can handle
- "THEREFORE" - Getting back to the original issue Paul says to **FLEE RUN** from idolatry
 - There is an article in the original language before the word "idolatry" which makes it read "the idolatry." Thus returning to the idolatry of eating meat.

1Cr 10:15

I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say.

- The Corinthian prided themselves in their "wisdom". Paul is challenging them. If you are wise, consider this.

1Cr 10:16

Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

1Cr 10:17

Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

Christ's
Communion

- Paul brings up Christ's Communion.
(partly to eventually transition to correct some issues concerning communion in chapter 11)
- Two interesting lessons about communion.
 - **Sharing** (NKJ = Communion) (*Gk- koinonia*) fellowship, joint participation, pledge of fellowship
 - **Partake** - (*Gk- metecho*) to belong to
 - **#1 Share / Partake in Christ** - A Spiritual Unity with the Benefits of the work of Christ
 - **#2 Share / Partake with the Body** - A Practical Commitment belonging to the Church
- Two Ordinances in the Church
 - Baptism } Jesus Commanded, Acts Demonstrated, Epistles Taught
 - Communion }
 - Foot Washing (NO) Jesus Commanded, but not found in Acts or explained in the epistles.
- Communion - Eating the Bread/Drinking the Cup has an effect on who we are and with whom we identify ourselves.
 - Lord's Communion - Unity between - Christ and Believers

1Cr 10:18

Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar?

Israel's
Offerings

- In **Leviticus 7:15-18**, in the Peace offering a portion was burnt unto the Lord, a portion the Priests ate as well the worshipper ate a portion.
- In the offerings of Israel there is a partaking/sharing of the offerings that were offered unto the Lord.
- In this day, to eat with someone was more than just filling your stomach. It was an activity that binds or creates a unity or at the very least causes identification between those who are eating.
- Lord's Communion - Unity between - Christ and Believers
- Israel's Sacrifices - Unity between - God, the Priest and the Worshipper

1Cr 10:19

What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

1Cr 10:20
Corinthian
Meat

No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.

- What do I mean then? - Paul realizes some might be confused. Didn't he say in **1 Corinthians 8:4** that there is no such thing as an idol? **YES**. In **Chapter 8:8** he said food cannot condemn us we are not worse if we eat it or not? **YES**.
- Doesn't it seem he is saying now with the examples of the Lord Communion & Israel's Offerings that it does do something to us? **YES**.

- Paul is clarifying that it isn't about the Meat, Communion wafer, Cup of juice/wine or the Lamb, Ram, Goat, Bull or Grain. There are no cooties or special powers on them.
- It is about with whom you are sharing / partaking / having communion.
- Remember:
 - Lord's Communion - Unity between - Christ and Believers
 - Israel's Sacrifices - Unity between - God, the Priest and the Worshipper
 - Idol Meat - Unity between - Demons, Temple Priests and a Believer in Christ
- Refocus or ask the correct question.
 - The original question was: Can we eat meat sacrificed to Idols?
 - Better question is: Does my eating idol meat identify my life with demons?
- Why didn't Paul answer this meat question this way back in Chapter 8? Because there are more issues than eating meat. Remember what they are?
 - Idols are nothing.
 - Stronger Responsible to nurture the Weaker
 - As Paul we don't have to always demanding our rights or recognition.
 - Israel's example, We need to be humble, because we are capable of messing it up
- Very important distinction is that although there are no such things as an idol DEMONS ARE REAL
- Paul doesn't want the Christians to be in fellowship with the demonic spiritual forces that are behind the idol worship in the pagan temples.

1Cr 10:21 **You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.**

1Cr 10:22 **Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we?**

- With this understanding of the spiritual force behind the Pagan's idol worship how could, a so called, mature Christian eat fellowshiping with demons and have communion with Jesus. IMPOSSIBLE.
- Deuteronomy 32:16-17 *"They made Him jealous with strange gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons who were not God, To gods whom they have not known, New gods who came lately, Whom your fathers did not dread"*

1Cr 10:23 **3) Summary Concerning Christian Liberty** vs 23-33

All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.

- **Point #1 - Our Christian Liberty has Limits**
 - The Corinthian Cry "All things are lawful" ...But all things are not profitable nor do they all edify
 - Back in Chapter 6 Paul used this same reasoning about sexual purity.

In business I take on jobs. As I price jobs, there is what is called "profit margin" Profit margin is very important it accomplishes Business Growth, Purchase of New Technology to Improve Productivity and Quality, Repairs on Old, Salary Increases, Security,

Profit is important to business and it is also important in our spiritual life. To be not profitable it is only a matter of time that if one operates his business Without profit that stored resources will be used up and he will become bankrupt. It is also true in the spirit.

You can get away with doing things that are not profitable to you spiritually. There are resources built up. But of your Christianity is filled with unprofitable living it is a matter of time before a sense of spiritual bankruptcy will overcome you.

1Cr 10:24 **Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.**

- **Point #2 - Our Christian Liberty isn't About Ourselves Alone**
 - This is the essence of following Christ.
 - It isn't about me. It's about others. If Jesus didn't have this mindset He would never have taken flesh and took our punishment on the cross.

- 1Cr 10:25 Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions for conscience' sake;
- 1Cr 10:26 **FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.**
- This quotation from Psalm 24 was commonly proclaimed at a mealtime.
 - The individual who understands an idol is nothing and the meat is clean, because his own conscience isn't violated buy and eat the meat from the temple market.
- 1Cr 10:27 If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions for conscience' sake.
- If an UNBELIEVER invites you over and your conscience is clear you can eat without having to ask questions.
- 1Cr 10:28 But if anyone says to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat *it*, for the sake of the one who informed *you*, and for conscience' sake;
- 1Cr 10:29 I mean not your own conscience, but the other *man's*;
- If anyone (believer or unbeliever) is sensitive about the meat and brings it up, we need to push away from our freedom for their sake.
 - Our freedoms should never teach another to violate their conscience.
- for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?
- 1Cr 10:30 If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?
- **Point #3 - Our Christian Liberty is Limited by Love.**
 - We see that our liberty is limited by a care love for others. We may have freedom but when others are involved love trumps personal freedom.
- 1Cr 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- **Point #4 - Our Christian Liberty Must Glorify God.**
 - Asking this one question honestly, "*Does what I am about to do Glorify God?*" will quickly separate God's will and our fleshly desire if our motive is not correct.
- 1Cr 10:32 Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God;
- **Point #5 - Our Christian Liberty Shouldn't Offend.**
 - The New Testament sees the world in three groups. Jews, The Church and all others (Greeks)
- 1Cr 10:33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the *profit* of the many, so that they may be saved.
- **Point #6 - Our Christian Liberty Should Promote Salvation.**
 - Does temporary pleasure or freedom cause eternal torment or damnation for others?
 - Does our temporary pleasure or freedom cause a soul to seek the Lord of Salvation?

**"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible[®],
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)**