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**Run Away from Demonic Idols**

**1 Corinthians 10:14-22**

Paul has argued that the Corinthians couldn’t eat food sacrificed to idols because 1) it would hurt the spiritual life of others, and 2) the Corinthians were weaker than they thought. In his third and final argument he warns them that they have no idea what they are messing with. Corinth might think nothing special was happening at these pagan idol feasts, but Paul argues there was something demonic going on.

Perhaps the title of this lesson is a bit surprising. After all, is this really something you need to worry about? Have you ever been tempted to mix it up with people worshipping demonic idols? Probably not. But Paul’s warnings here to the Corinthians will have a lot of practical, contemporary relevance as we study it carefully.

**Paul’s Opening Statement (10:14-15)**

*Run from evil; don’t cozy up to it.*

The Corinthians were messing around with idolatry, trying to see how close they could get without crossing the line. Paul warned them to turn in the opposite direction and run away from it. He tells them that this is the “wise” (i.e. common sense, logical) perspective to have on the issue.

**If running from idolatry is the sensible or wise response, why did the Corinthians insist on the right to engage in idolatrous practices? What warning can we take from this?**

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**This is the second time Paul has warned the Corinthians to flee sin (cf 6:18). What would it have looked like for the Corinthians to flee idolatry? What does fleeing sin look like today?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**The Example of the Lord’s Supper (10:16-17)**

*Communion shows our unity with Christ and other believers.*

Paul gives two examples of the principle that sacred meals involved more than just eating. The first example he gives is communion, where our participation represents our unity with Christ and other believers.

**How does the Lord’s Supper communicate our unity with other believers?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**What is Paul’s point in stating that believers enjoy fellowship with Christ and others in communion?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**The Example of Israel (10:18-20)**

*The spiritual world is real, so take it seriously.*

The Corinthians thought idols didn’t matter because “there is one God.” While God is more powerful than any other entity, it is foolish to think that means that we can be unconcerned about the forces of spiritual darkness. Paul warns that, as in the OT, seemingly empty displays of devotion for idols was actually something much more sinister – the worship of demons.

**Why do Americans struggle to take seriously the call to spiritual warfare here and elsewhere in the NT?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**How would our lives look differently if we took seriously the charge to spiritual warfare?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Paul’s Final Conclusion (10:21-22)**

*God cares about your loyalty.*

Finally, Paul points out to Corinth that God cared very much about their participation in idolatry, because God is a jealous God. God wants all the affection of his people, and he is not willing to share our attention or our hearts with anyone, certainly not with idols.

**What happened in the Old Testament when God got jealous over Israel and Judah?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**In what ways can modern day believers provoke God to jealousy by the way that they live?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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