

Flee From Idolatry

April 8, 2018

1 Corinthians 10:1-14 ESV

1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were ALL under the cloud, and ALL passed through the sea,

2 and ALL were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

3 and ALL ate the same spiritual food,

4 and ALL drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

5 Nevertheless, WITH MOST OF THEM GOD WAS NOT PLEASED, for they were overthrown in the WILDERNESS.

The wilderness is the great discriminator - will we please God or please ourselves?

"To the very center of its being, today's culture is corrupt. Humanity without Christ is totally depraved. The world will lead you directly away from the things of God, rather than toward them."

"Once we identify the enemy and understand his wicked ways, we realize the world is a battleground, not a playground."

—Chuck Swindoll, Today's Insight, "Identify the Enemy" Pt. 1

6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil 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 rose up to play."

How could they be so exposed, so involved and so in touch with the presence of God and still be lost?

People are involved with God's presence and God's people for many different reasons.

- *To ease their conscious and guilt.*
- *To earn salvation with good works.*
- *Christianity is a good cause to support.*
- *They think morality and kindness will fix society.*
- *They like the company and friendship of Christians.*
- *Self and life improvement.*
- *Fame and wealth.*

But they could never come to the place of absolute and total surrender and abandonment to the will of God:

1. *The guide and final authority of His Word.*
2. *God's sovereign plan and calling on their life, circumstances and events.*

Romans 12:1 ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual (logikos - reasonable, agreeable, logical, spiritual) worship.

Galatians 2:20 ESV

20 "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Philippians 1:21 ESV "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

"Lord, I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom You will. Let me be employed by You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low by You. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. Amen." —John Wesley

"...Another thing about the man on the cross...he has no further plans of his own...Oh, what busy-beaver Christians we are with all of our plans! It is beautiful to say, 'I am crucified with Christ,' and know that Christ is making your plans." —A.W. Tozer, "The Old Cross and the New", p.44

John 5:19 ESV

19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise."

Galatians 5:25 ESV

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step (stoicheō - proceed in a row as the march of a soldier, direct one's life) with the Spirit.

Luke 13:23-27 ESV

23 And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them,

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

25 When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.'

26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.'

27 But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!'

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

1 Corinthians 10:1-14 ESV

7 DO NOT BE IDOLATERS as some of them were; as it is written, **"The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."**

Idolatry is the exaltation of:

1. my will above God's will
2. my desires above God's desires
3. my plans above God's plan
4. myself above God

1 Corinthians 10:1-14 ESV

8 WE MUST NOT INDULGE in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

9 WE MUST NOT PUT CHRIST TO THE TEST, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,

10 NOR GRUMBLE, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

We "MUST NOT" -

1. *"Indulge" our fleshly desires above God*
2. *Put Christ to the test by presuming upon His grace and forgiveness*
3. *"Nor grumble" - grumbling is the native language of the idolater because his god is not being served*

1 Corinthians 10:1-14 ESV

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Hebrews 6:4-8 ESV

4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,

5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,

1 Corinthians 10:3-5 ESV

3 and all ate the same spiritual food,

4 and all drank the same spiritual drink...

5 ...with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.

8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Hebrews 10:26-27 ESV

26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

1 Corinthians 10:1-14 ESV

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

14 Therefore, my beloved, FLEE FROM IDOLATRY.

The idolatry of self is the source and root of every sin ever committed.

- *To love self instead of loving God.*
- *To obey self instead of obeying God.*

"Much of our problem in continuing fellowship with a holy God is that many Christians repent only for what they do, rather than for what they are." —A.W. Tozer, "Whatever Happened to Worship?"

Asking forgiveness for sins without repenting of the self-will and rebellion that caused them is worldly sorrow seeking to escape consequences.

Asking forgiveness for sins AND repenting of the self-will and rebellion that caused them is true godly sorrow that brings cleansing and genuine change.

The idolatry of self is the refusal to surrender to:

- *God's Word as the only and final guide and authority of my conduct and lifestyle*
- *God's sovereign plan over the calling, circumstances and events of my life*

Our surrender must be to both aspects of God's lordship. The rich young man was compliant to God's commandments but not to God's calling for his life.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 NASB

22 Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.

23 "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king."

Jeremiah 14:14 ESV

14 And the LORD said to me: "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds."

1 Timothy 4:1 ESV

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.

The greatest danger of the idolatry of self is its ability to remain hidden behind:

1. *behavior modification*
2. *Self-righteousness, good deeds and morality*
3. *verbiage and rhetoric*
4. *knowledge and education*
5. *religious activity and religious bribery*

Proverbs 7:13-15 ESV

13 She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face she says to him,

14 "I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows;

15 so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.

James 1:22 ESV

1 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.