

FLEE FROM IDOLATRY
I COR. 10:14-24

Introduction:

- A. The church at Corinth existed in the midst of idolatry.
 - 1. The Paganism of that city involved the lives of most people.
 - 2. Idol worship involved animal sacrifice and eating of meat sacrificed to idols.

- B. This presented a peculiar problem to the Christians.
 - 1. To eat or not to eat.
 - 2. Involved more than abstinence or participation.

I. THE CHRISTIAN MUST NOT BE AN IDOLATER. V14

- A. The Christian is in danger, we can sin.
 - 1. v7.

- B. The Christian can avoid it.
 - 1. v13.
 - 2. "flee from idolatry."

II. THE CHRISTIAN HAS INTELLECTUAL ABILITY. V15

- A. Paul wrote them to do their own thinking.
 - 1. "I speak as unto wise men."
 - 2. "Judge ye what I say."

- B. God's people are intelligent beings.
 - 1. You listen to God's Word.
 - 2. You make a decision.

II. THE ELEMENTS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER SPEAK OF CHRIST.

- A. The cup.
 - 1. communion = omilia - a being together or company with one.

- B. The bread.
 - 1. communion = see above.

- C. Those who partake of the cup over which thanksgiving has been said, those who eat the bread over which thanksgiving has been said, are participants and partakers of the "one bread" which is Christ. This is by faith and not by the mouth.
 - 1. v17.

III. ISRAEL AS A NATION PARTOOK OF THE ALTAR. V18

- A. All of Israel which ate of the meat sacrificed at the altar, participated in the worship of the God of the altar.
 - 1. To eat the meat was to participate.

- B. When a Jew ate meat sacrificed to Jehovah God, he worshipped Jehovah God.

IV. THERE ARE NO OTHER GODS BUT THEY REPRESENT THE DEVIL.

V19-20

- A. v19.
- B. v20.

- C. We cannot mix the worship of the true and the false. v21
 - 1. Cup of the Lord.
 - 2. Lord's table.

- D. Is it our purpose to make God jealous?
 - 1. Why would we do such a thing?
 - a. "do we provoke the Lord to jealousy?"
 - b. Jealousy is the feeling which arises from wounded love.
 - c. Provoke to jealousy = parazeloo - to render mis-zealous, to mis-use zeal.
 - 2. If that is the intention it has one problem.

- a. "are we stronger than he?"
- b. Those who defy God should.

V. EATING FOOD WAS NOT SINFUL. V23

- A. "All things are lawful for me."
 1. lawful = eksesti - it is possible, one can, referring to moral possibility or propriety; hence, it is permitted.
 2. expedient = sumphero - to collect, bring together, hence to be profitable.
- B. "all things are lawful for me."
 1. lawful = (same).
 2. edify = oikodomeo - to build a house.
- C. All lawful things are lawful, (eating food) but doing doesn't always build up the church.

VI. THE BEST TEST OF AN ACTIVITY. V24

- A. "Let no man seek his own...(welfare)"
 1. You may have a legitimate right.
 2. It might help you individually.
- B. "but every man another's wealth...(welfare)"
 1. Don't do what is best for you, but others.
 2. This is a truth applicable to the church.

VII. THE LESSONS FOR US.

- A. v14, Flee from whatever tempts.
- B. v15, We can understand the Bible.
- C. v17, When we partake of the supper we fellowship in Christ.
- D. v22, Don't try to overpower God.
- E. v23, Some things look sinful and aren't.
- F. v24, Don't think of yourself only.