

Flee from Idolatry

1 Cor. 10:14-22

"We need to hear this warning again because we, too, are tempted to worship false gods. Or to put it another way, we are tempted to let other things fill up the space in our lives that God ought to occupy. To identify our own idols, it helps to ask ourselves questions like these: What am I hoping for? What am I counting on? What gives my life meaning? Where do I get my personal sense of worth? What am I thinking about? What am I working for? What makes me feel good? Where do I turn for comfort [money, things, food, sex, alcohol, drugs, control, power, entertainment]? These questions we need to keep asking because it is so easy for us to manufacture other gods, the lesser deities we love and serve." Ryken

- I. God is not a God of happenstance or coincidence. He doesn't let us haphazardly stumble along to glean his truth here and there, hoping we take it to heart. Instead, he is very to the point and concise in what he wants his church to understand as we wait and watch for Christ's return. He makes it clear to us that he doesn't want us to bring any idols alongside him. He doesn't want idols in our lives in any form whatsoever because of their influence, and because of the spiritual forces behind them.

1 Cor. 10:14

Ex. 20:18-27

1 John 5:20-21 *20We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 21Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

- II. True idol free worship comes from a faithful heart. It is the place where we offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to him as an act of true and proper worship (**Rom. 12:1**). It is where we participate in the blood and body of Christ as one righteous unified body of believers. It is the place where we come with the sole purpose of honoring our Lord and Savior. It is where we worship in Spirit and in truth, idol free, divided heart free, divided devotion free so that with one heart and mouth we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Rom. 15:5-6**).

1 Cor. 10:15-17

John 4:23-34 *"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*

- III. Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (**2 Cor. 11:14**) to deceive the church into thinking that it is truly worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth. His desire is to keep the church from being Word centered by enticing believers to bring the evil world system of success, numbers, money, power, fame, entertainment, and compromise into the church, Christ's body, so that it drinks of its demonic cup, instead of the Lord's holy cup.

1 Cor. 10:18-22

"It is crucial to understand that 'eating,' 'drinking,' and 'partaking,' are metaphors that represent the actions of our lives. These metaphors speak of the food we take into our lives through the things we read, view, hear, do, acquire, and delight ourselves in. Paul is warning us of the danger of becoming fascinated, bewitched, and seduced by the lure of otherwise innocent activities. He's warning us of becoming lured by the exciting atmosphere around the temple of worldly activity." Stedman