

**FLEE FROM IDOLS
AND SERVE CHRIST**

1 CORINTHIANS 10

CORINTH



ANCIENT CORINTH



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INTRODUCTION

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- After urging the Corinthians to continue the race and be disciplined, Paul warns them against idolatry.
- He warns them against losing focus and letting their eyes and hearts get the best of them.
- How does he do this? He reminds them of their history. He reminds them of their spiritual ancestors and the way God provided, delivered, and sustained them and how they fell and went their own way.

INTRODUCTION

- This is the state of the Christians in Corinth.
- Paul wants them to reflect and take a look in the mirror. They are not so different from Israel.
- God has done much for them in Christ. He has provided. He has delivered.
- He has sent the Spirit to sustain. But they, now experiencing new life in Christ, still want to live in their old ways.

INTRODUCTION

- Paul encourages them to stay the course and devote themselves to Christ.
- Paul urges them to flee from their pride and lustful desires to serve Christ and have no other gods as well.

**LEARN FROM THE SIN
OF THOSE WHO HAVE
GONE BEFORE YOU**

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- Paul wants the believers in Corinth to see the similarities in their story with those who have gone before them, to see how their predecessors responded in the face of temptation and cultural influence and how God responded as well.
- In the first 13 verses, he does this by way of reminding.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- The first five verses look back to the narrative of the Israelites. Paul gives many reminders.
- He reminds the Corinthians in verses 1–2 of the deliverance the Israelites experienced as God parted the Red Sea and how the cloud in Exodus 13 was a symbol of God's presence for them.
- When Paul uses the imagery of baptism, he does so for means of identification.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- Paul wants the Corinthians to see that God's presence is still with them.
- Paul wants the Corinthian believers to practice more discipline and spiritual focus than the Israelites.
- While God provided for the Israelites in the desert with spiritual food and physical food, He now provides the spiritual food through Christ to the Corinthians. And the demonstration of remembrance is the Lord's table.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- In verse 4, Paul mentions the Rock that followed them. It is natural for God to be described as a Rock, firm and strong, unmoving.
- There's also imagery here to Exodus 17 where Moses brings water out from the rock.
- For Israel, and for the Corinthians, Christ is the spiritual Rock that always replenishes.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- Verse 5 brings to light the need for discipline by presenting the failure of the Israelites in the Wilderness Generation.
- Despite seeing God move in such miraculous ways, all but two of the people experienced God's discipline, were disqualified, and died in the desert.
- This failure should spur the readers on to self-discipline.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- Paul moves on in verses 6–10 to encourage the Corinthians not to act in the same hypocrisy that Israel did.
- Paul wants them to live lives representative of their beliefs. But the problem is idolatry.
- Paul quotes Exodus 32:6 and brings to mind the golden calf debacle, a failure of faith.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- This is the context of the Corinthian Christians.
- Paul continues to address eating and drinking at banquets centered around false gods.
- These Christians who think they are “strong” and think they have certain knowledge and certain freedoms continue to claim Christ but frequent the cultural dinners that involve idol worship.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- Paul tells them not to attend such activities because he knows that it will lead to other sin.
- There was much sinful activity at nights like this.
- All forms of idolatry took place, including sexual immorality.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- Paul's reference in verse 8 recalls Numbers 25.
- Here, the Israelites intermarried with the Moabite women and in so doing, joined themselves to people who followed a false god.
- They yoked themselves together with idol worshippers, and God's judgment fell on them due to His anger.
- He desires allegiance, not divided hearts.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- He goes on to explain that idolatry hinders us from fully enjoying life and God the way we should.
- It's not that we want other things instead of Christ, it's that we want Christ plus other things.
- That was the reality for these Corinthians. They wanted to still be in the public eye.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- God's judgment is not always synonymous with eternal destruction.
- The use of "destroyer" does not connect directly to an Old Testament passage, however some believe there is connection to the Passover account.
- Yes, the people were saved, but there was still wrath and judgment in their grumbling and disobedience.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- The narrative of Israel was that of grumbling and complaining and false worship.
- If the Corinthians don't listen, their story will be the same, Paul warns. Paul encourages them to use Israel's history to inform their present.
- When Paul uses the phrase, "on whom the end of the ages has come" in verse 11, he is centering on the Christ event. This is God's new people, the Church.

LEARN FROM THE SIN

- Paul concluded urging these Christians to rely on the faithfulness of God, rather than on self-reliance.
- Just as He was faithful to Israel in provision and deliverance so, too, will He be to those who rely on Him in the hour of temptation.
- It is dependence on Christ that keeps them safe, not mere identification. This is what happened to Israel.

**LEAVE BEHIND OTHER
GODS AND TURN
TO CHRIST**

1 CORINTHIANS 10:14-22

TURN TO CHRIST

- Moving from his exhortation that Christ will help through trials and temptations, Paul urges the Corinthians to flee from idolatry.
- Don't compromise your dedication to Christ by dividing loyalty.
- Serve Him only.

TURN TO CHRIST

- In his opening verses, Paul reminds them they are sensible; they are knowledgeable people. Paul wants them to see the irrationality behind joining themselves to other false gods while remaining joined to Christ.
- Paul brings to light the Lord's Supper in verses 16–17 because he wants them to see that the supper is an act of communion with Christ, a declaration that believers are part of Him.

TURN TO CHRIST

- By doing this, Paul attempts to do what he has already done when arguing that one cannot join to a prostitute if they are joined to Christ.
- In the same way, one cannot participate in the supper and be involved in idol worship.

TURN TO CHRIST

- This is Paul's argument for the remaining verses in this section to verse 22.
- Eating meat offered to idols, participating in an idol banquet, is joining oneself to the sacrifice. By doing this, they partnered with what the banquet altar stood for.
- This is why Paul tries to show them the food isn't the issue, it's the idols connected to the food.

TURN TO CHRIST

- It's vital we understand why this was such a big deal for Paul. Yes, it was important because of believer's testimony about Christ and service to Him.
- The table of the Lord is a celebration of the defeat of the powers celebrated at idol banquets. The Lord's Supper reminds us of Christ's victory.
- Attending a banquet connected to the worship of a false god is belittling the triumph of Christ!

TURN TO CHRIST

- These Christians are encouraged to live for Christ alone. It's more than their piety. It's their relationships. It's their actions.
- Paul encourages says their entire lives that matter. It's how they conduct themselves in every arena.
- Paul has tried to get these believers to see the great benefit and command they have been given to give up rights for the sake of others.

**LET YOUR CONVICTIONS
LEAD OTHERS
TOWARD CHRIST**

1 CORINTHIANS 10:23-11:1

LEAD TOWARD CHRIST

- Paul focuses on the giving up of rights.
- We have liberty in Christ. But we don't live for ourselves.
- We, as Christ did for us, live for the building up and serving of one another.
- Paul continues to connect this to meat sacrificed to idols.

LEAD TOWARD CHRIST

- Paul's main argument is getting at the heart of the people who believe they have freedom to do whatever they want
- These were the two groups of people, those who lived in ways that hurt the conscience of their neighbors, and those who live licentiously that confused their neighbors' conscience.
- Both ways can be contradictory to the way of the Gospel.

LEAD TOWARD CHRIST

- Paul explains that not all meat has been used in idol worship. But he wants these Corinthians to know that food is important because what it stands for.
- First of all, in quoting the Psalms, Paul says food is given by God. Eat it. And thank Him.
- But food that God has given, that has been used to honor a false deity, is not to be eaten.

LEAD TOWARD CHRIST

- In essence, don't be rude. But also, don't be hypocritical if you do know the meat has been sacrificed to other gods and partake.
- This would be leading the host astray, thinking that one can worship Christ and eat meat offered to other false gods.
- The Christian's freedom must not be a stumbling block for the salvation of one's neighbor.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION # 1

- Why do you think that God told Moses: “You shall not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk” in Exodus 34:26?
 - This must be important since it is repeated three times in the Bible:
 - Exodus 23:19 and 34:26 and Deuteronomy 14:21.

BOILING A KID

- Why did God forbid this?
 - Because it was an idolatrous practice.
 - Because it was an occult practice done to make the land more productive.
 - Metaphor about not being holy and not mixing two things (Leviticus 19 - seeds).
 - Because milk and meat are hard to digest.

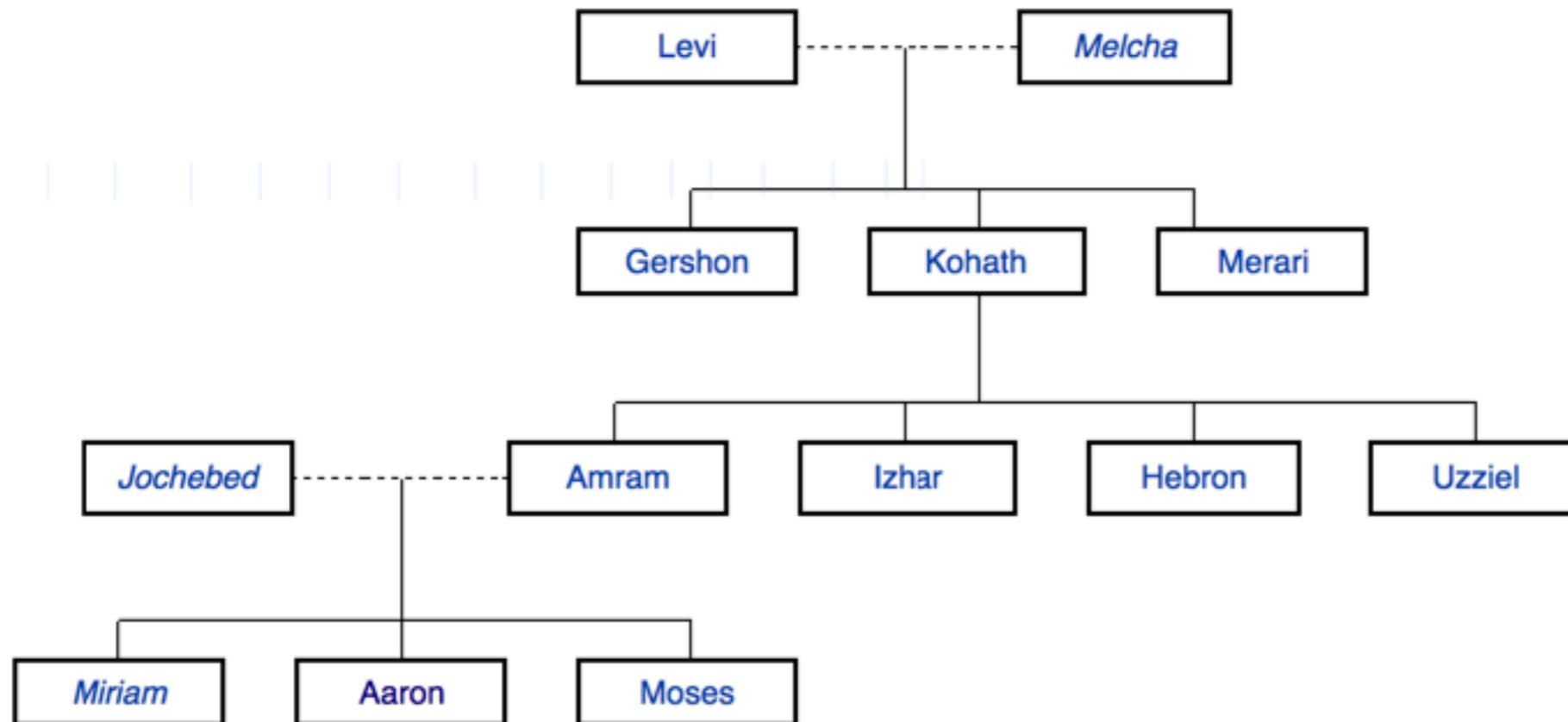
MILK AND MEAT

- Jewish dietary law prohibits mixing milk and meat.
- The Hebrew phrase “basar bechalav” literally “meat in milk” and it prohibited according to Jewish law.
- This dietary law is based on these three verses (two in Exodus and one in Deuteronomy).
- If you travel to Israel, you can see this is still practiced today.

QUESTION # 2

- Was Moses in the tribe of Judah (Exodus 35:30) and not in the lineage of Christ?
- Was his brother, Aaron, who was a priest in the tribe of the Levites?
- I would think that these brothers would be in the same tribe.

LEVITES



TWO TRIBES

- **Judah** - the preeminent of the 12 tribes, “Judah prevailed over his brothers” (1 Chronicles 5:2).
- This was the tribe of David, Solomon, Mary, Jesus.
- **Levi** - the tribe of the priesthood, the tribe stood by Moses at the golden calf incident, and were ministers in the Tabernacle.
- This was the tribe of Moses, Aaron, John the Baptist.

ERROR IN THE QUR'AN

- Sura 19:28 refers to Mary as the “sister of Aaron.”
- Mary was in the tribe of Judah, so she could be considered a “sister” of Judah or of David.
- Aaron was of the line of Levi. Elizabeth could be considered a “sister” of Aaron. John the Baptist could be considered a “brother” of Aaron.

EXODUS 35:30-35

- This verse is where Moses appoints Bezalel and Oholiab to superintend the work of the construction of the tabernacle because of their technical expertise.
- Bezalel was the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.
- Oholiab was the son of Ahisamach from the tribe of Dan.

LION OF JUDAH

