

1 Corinthians 10:7 (NASB)

7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, “THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY.” Ex 32:4

FLEE

IDOLATRY

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

THE BODY OF CHRIST

DEMONS

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, **but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Verse 13 told us that God provides the way out of temptation.

The way out of temptation is **to flee from it to Christ.**

There is no way of true deliverance from the reign of sin except we believe we have died to it - having died with Christ, our connection with sin being thus broken. Miles J. Stanford

***14** Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.*

¹⁴ *Therefore, my beloved, **flee** from idolatry.*

A primary verb; to **run away, to escape**

What do we flee from?

Anything that competes with the Lordship of Christ,
Sensual desires, Testing the Lord

Where do we flee to?

We flee to the person of Christ and His cross death.
For we have nowhere else to *flee*, No sanctuary,
Lord, but Thee.

Idolatry

Romans 1:22-25 alienates man from God

Eph. 2:3 Lack of knowledge of God and gratitude to Him

Gal. 4:8-9 An "idolater" is a slave to the depraved ideas his idols represent

Titus 3:3 Desires and pleasure

Idolatry of some kind or other. Something has been allowed to usurp Christ's proper place in the heart—

*¹⁵ I speak as to **wise men**; you judge what I say.*

WISE - PRUDENT

At once Paul makes them judges themselves by putting them in presence of the central and standing institution of church fellowship.

The degree to which we agree with Paul on the issue of fleeing is a measure of our wisdom. McCalley

- The **true wisdom** in such cases is to keep wholly away from it.

¹⁶ Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ?

Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

Here we have a solemn and blessed thing.

- Communion with the blood of Christ
- Communion with the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing is communion with His blood.

It connects us directly with His death and puts us in the place where we ought to be here on earth.

Christ's death places me in the position towards the earth in which He is, even that of separation.

Christ having died, I am out of this scene in spirit with Him where He is.

Colossians 3:1-3 (NASB)

*¹ Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

*³ **For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.***

“There is no other path that would suit me on earth but to be identified with His death.”

Galatians 2:20 (NASB)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

It is not that **we *must not*** but
We *cannot*, it is impossible.

- We cannot have the two any more than we can be light and darkness at the same time; it is impossible if we are light to be darkness.

17 "because we, the many, are one bread, one body; for we all partake of the one loaf."

We turn now to the Lord in the church on earth.

- His delight is to be here with us.
- The Lord's treasure is not in heaven, it is on the earth.
- We are in spirit with Him in heaven, and **the more we are with Him there, the more we will be occupied with His interests here.**

¹⁸Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

Paul referred to Israel literally as **“Israel according to the flesh.”**

Paul's line of reasoning was proceeding as follows.

- Christians who eat the bread at the Lord's Table thereby express their solidarity with one another and with Christ.
- Likewise Jews who ate the meat of animals offered in the sacrifices of Judaism expressed their solidarity with one another and with God.
- Therefore Christians who eat the meat offered to pagan gods as part of pagan worship express their solidarity with pagans and with the pagan deities.

CONSTABLE

19 What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

Paul proceeded to clarify what he meant. He was not saying that sacrifices to idols or idols themselves were anything.

- That is, sacrifices to idols were not in themselves sinful nor were idols genuine entities.
- On this point he and the Corinthians agreed. Idols were only pieces of wood or stone, not gods with supernatural powers.
- Nevertheless, these idols represented supernatural powers (v. 20), and so eating cultic meals had genuine significance.

CONSTABLE

²⁰ No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.

- A person who sacrifices to idols expresses solidarity with demonic powers.
- Eating the food sacrificed to idols means that the people who participated shared in what had been sacrificed to demons just as the Israelites shared in what had been sacrificed to God.
- The cultic feasts were really sacrifices to demons, so they involved the worship of demons.

21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

- In the Lord's Table he eats and drinks in union with Christ.
- In the table of demons he is in union with demons who direct the devotees to worship idols.
- Christians have a unique relationship with the Lord and with fellow-believers, which the Lord's Table symbolizes. It is, therefore, inappropriate for us to have a similar association with demons.

22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we?

The Israelites provoked the Lord to jealousy by doing just such a thing when they joined in Moabite worship (Num. 25; cf. Deut. 32:17, 21-22).

We are to learn from their experiences. **It would be folly to provoke the Lord unless we are stronger than He.**

If we provoke Him and are not, we can count on His chastening since He is a jealous God.