

I Corinthians 10:1-22

Spiritual Security



I Corinthians

Chapter 8

**Don't let
your liberty
cause
a believer
to leave
the faith.**

Chapter 9

**Don't let
your liberty
cause
a non believer
to reject
the faith.**

Chapter 10

**Don't let
your liberty
give you
false security.**

**How are we to
understand the warning
passages in the New
Testament?**

**Can Christians fall from
grace?**

What constitutes idolatry?

Principle

10:1-14

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, 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 were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness." ⁶ Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved. ⁷ And 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.*" ⁸ Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. ⁹ Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. ¹⁰ Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 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, that you may be able to endure it. ¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry."

Application

10:15-22

¹⁵ I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say. 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? ¹⁷ Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸ Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar? ¹⁹ What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 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. 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. ²² Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we?"

Principle

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, 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 were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness."

✓ **Spiritual security is based on a covenant relationship with God**

Principle

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- ✓ **Spiritual security is based on a covenant relationship with God **that must be maintained****

Application to Corinth

“¹⁵ I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say. 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? ¹⁷ Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸ Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar?”

- ✓ **Like Israel, we have a covenant communion with God in Christ**

What did Israel lose and what could the Christian lose?

 **Eternal** - This is an eternal salvation issue.

 **Temporal** - this is a discipline issue.

Principle

“¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 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, that you may be able to endure it. ¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”

- ✓ **Spiritual security is based on a covenant relationship with God that must be maintained **through personal responsibility.****

Application to Corinth

“¹⁹ What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 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. 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. ²² Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we?”

- ✓ **Like Israel, we have a covenant communion with God in Christ **that can be ship wrecked by our communion with the world.****

Standing and Falling

- ✓ **Rom.11** “²⁰ Quite right, they were broken off for their **unbelief**, but you **stand by your faith**. Do not be conceited but fear; ²¹ for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you.”
- ✓ **Gal.5:4** “You have been **severed from Christ**, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have **fallen** from grace.”

The weaker brother can perish through idolatry.

- ✓ **I Cor.8:11** “For through your knowledge he who is weak is **ruined (perish)**, the brother for whose sake Christ died.”
- ✓ **John3:16** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believed in Him should not **perish**, but have eternal life.”
- ✓ **I Cor.1:18** “For the word of the cross is to those who are **perishing** foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

Israel switched religions.

- ✓ **Ex.32:8** “They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, ‘**This is your god**, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt’.”
- ✓ **Num.25:1-2** “¹ While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab, ² For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods and **the people ate and bowed down to their gods.**”

What was Israel’s sin and what is the Christian warned about?

X Strategic disbelief - forsaking faith in Christ.

☐ Tactical disobedience - falling into any one of many sins.



Important facts

**Disbelief
may lead to
Disobedience.**

**Disobedience
may not come from
Disbelief.**

The point of this text

**We must continue
to abide in Christ
and resist
all temptations
to leave the faith
and thus perish.**

Two great temptations

- ✓ Define Christianity by social behavior **not doctrinal belief.**

"The Kingdom without the King"

- ✓ Define Christian security in terms of past experience **not present conviction.**

"Orthodoxy without living faith"

Lessons from this text

- ✓ Can a confessing believer not only stumble but also fall from grace? **Yes**
- ✓ Does unrepentant sin = falling from grace? **No**
- ✓ Can a true believer be lost? It depends on how you address this issue.
True faith is a human choice that can change.
Those truly chosen by God will persevere in faith.
- ✓ Of what should we be warned? Turning away from faith in Christ.
- ✓ Unrepentant sin should concern us? It may reveal an unbelieving heart.

Three great temptations

- ✓ Define Christianity by social behavior **not doctrinal belief.**

*Worshipping the creation
rather than the Creator.*

- ✓ Define Christian security in terms of past experience **rather than present conviction.**

*In preparation for the next class
look at 10:23-33*

How can I know
if my motives
are right
in what I do?