

1 Corinthians 10 v.13-22 Koinonia

In verses 1-12 Paul gave a detailed example of how being close to faith doesn't give one faith. He used Israel as that example.

Israel had seen so much, had travelled so far, but so many fell short of the promise - their hearts were not moved to an authentic faith that has encountered Christ's grace on top of grace.

We also share that same risk today.

This is such an important message for our area because our area is hyper-saturated in churches. We are covered in the veneer of dedicated faith while often falling short of the substance.

I wish it were not so, but here we are, finding ourselves in the position where we are sometimes in need of "unsaving" people just so they can hear the unpolluted everlasting gospel for the first time.

Paul arrives at the very plain warning - let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

In the remainder of chapter 10 Paul is going to wrap up several lines of thought that he has been working through in the previous chapters.

In parts of chapter 8 and 9 Paul gave instruction on how to handle eating things offered to idols and then how we ought to be prepared to defer our

own liberties for the sake of others seeing as Christ deferred his liberty for our sakes that ought to be how we live as a rule, not the exception - esteeming others more highly than ourselves.

Paul is going to wrap that thought up here.

v.13 - that wonderful temptation verse - what a promise

Before we dissect the layers of this verse we need to clear a few things up that are common thought.

1. God does not tempt us - we should not extrapolate Christ's prayer "lead us not into temptation" and even trying to make inference from this verse here that God tempts His saints into wickedness.

[Jas 1:12-15 NKJV] 12 Blessed [is] the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

2. The temptations we face are not exceptional! - they are common and not beyond what we are able to handle.

Now, you may be envisioning some moment of temptation that was just brutal AND perhaps one that you failed. Maybe it's a recurring thing. Perhaps you are dealing with it in your life presently. Now...God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able. Think about that! Think about how much God believes in you! If He, looking upon that complex circumstance or hellish temptation you are entering into and says, "By Jesus' blood you got this."

He doesn't say that absently or unconcerned but in full knowledge of you are but more importantly who He is - and how He is ever faithful to His saints.

Consider Job -

[Job 1:6-12 NKJV] 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." 8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that [there is] none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" 9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" 12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has

[is] in your power; only do not lay a hand on his [person]." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

God believed in Job! God believes in you! He is not lofty and out of touch with our situations. He is pulling for us every time we are tempted and he doesn't say look at that ragged piece of trash their - I don't know how that's going to work out. Why not? Most of us certainly feel like that might be an apt description of our faith. Well because we our clothed in Christ's righteousness - remember - [2Co 5:21 NKJV] 21 For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

You are viewed from heaven as THE righteousness of God. Expectations are high!

3. God is faithful no matter what the outcome - that is grace. God isn't trying to entrap us by setting up the temptation and the exit. He knows that we will go through temptations because we are housed in this mortal flesh and we live in a fallen world. He makes for us the escape.

v.14 - Therefore - since all of that - here's the escape hatch - FLEE from idolatry.

Paul is circling back to this thought on eating things sacrificed to idols and the church's allowance for participation in pagan religion because they were so surrounded by it.

[Psa 135:14-18 NKJV] 14 For the LORD will judge His people, And He will have compassion on His servants. 15 The idols of the nations [are] silver and gold, The work of men's hands. 16 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; 17 They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there [any] breath in their mouths. 18 Those who make them are like them; [So is] everyone who trusts in them.

v.15-17 - Whose team are you on?

15 - they finally get a compliment in the middle of all of the correction

use your judgment - think about it, pray about it, study - put some thought into this. So often people make snap intuitive judgments on their faith based on emotions/feelings or snap logic. That same person will spend 15 minutes at the grocery store figuring out the per unit cost for a 12 pack of yogurts trying to decide where the best savings is. Listen, this has ETERNAL weight to it. Use some biblically sound judgment - that's my prayer for you all each week that you'll leave here with some notes and some things to chew on and pray over. That you'll search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

16-17 Communion means something - to share a meal with someone in those days was to be one with them. This was especially true in the Jewish culture and that's why they would not eat with gentiles because they didn't want to be joined to an unclean person outside of God's covenant, ostensibly.

[Mat 9:10-11 NKJV] 10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, [that] behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw [it], they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

That's why Christ eating with sinners and scrubs was such a big deal - it was scandalous. He was joining himself to them.

Practically nobody had silverware (that's why ritual hand washing was so important) and they all shared common foods together. Anybody uncomfortable?

So by all partaking of this symbolic meal which invokes the memory of Christ's body, which we have become a part of and His blood which establishes our covenant with God, we enter into communion with one another.

Drinking from the same cup might give a better picture - you all got the same germs!

We have joined together in what the Bible calls Koinonia - communion, fellowship, joint participation, social intercourse (just to make you a little more uncomfortable and to grasp the importance of Koinonia).

v.18 - the priests received a portion from the altar that was for God but sustained them - they ate from God's table. They had koinonia with God.

v.19-22 - If you're on God's team, at God's table, then don't have koinonia with demons

We would all say - duh - right?

Maybe not, it appears that the Corinthians may have gotten to a point where they were so comfortable in their liberty that they would even be willing to go into these pagan temples and eat at their food court! And while they may have felt fine with that, the pagan worshippers saw that as koinonia with their gods, and weaker Christians saw that as koinonia with demons. That's the wrong move to make.

Eat at God's table. You can't have it both ways, one foot in, one foot out.

Don't have a divided spirit. If you're going to have koinonia with Christ then flee idolatry. If it's just food then it shouldn't be a problem to let it go. AND the food Christ provides has so much more substance for our souls.

22 - REF [Exo 34:13-16 NKJV] 13 "But you shall destroy their altars, break their [sacred] pillars, and cut down their wooden images 14 "(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name [is] Jealous, [is] a jealous God), 15 "lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and [one of them] invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, 16 "and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.

The Corinthians may have felt that they were spiritually immune from this, that they could go and eat at pagan temples because they grew up around them. Well whether they knew it or not they were celebrating and entering into koinonia with demons - provoking God's jealousy.

BTW God's jealousy is not like ours tainted by insecurity - His is for our best interest as we see in Exodus 34 - he knows that we will, unchecked, destroy ourselves and our families for our bellies.

We are not stronger than He. He cares so much for us and for our well being. Beat the temptation by Christ's righteousness, Flee idolatry, Take the escape - pull up to God's table and have blessed communion.

After all remember Christ's words - "this is my Body which is broken for you."