

Take Heed, Lest You Fall

1 Corinthians, Vol. 18

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1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul used himself as an example in chapter 9. Now he turns to Old Testament history for broader principles. The first 10 verses set the stage for potently practical applications you can apply every day. 11-13 tell you what to do.

I. **Bad Attitudes Cause Trouble** (1-5)

1 Corinthians 10:1: *For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea;*

For connects this directly to chapter 9. **Our fathers** is referring to spiritual ancestry. Those who refuse to learn lessons from previous generations are going to make the same mistakes.

Were all under the cloud refers to Exodus 13:21-22.

All passed through the sea refers to Exodus 14:21-22.

1 Corinthians 10:2-4: *. . . and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.*

When you went with that crowd you were joined irreversibly to Moses. See Exodus 14:31. This uses the word **baptize** figuratively.

The **spiritual food** was **manna**, “spiritual” because God provided it miraculously. The **spiritual drink** was water provided miraculously by God in the desert. The **spiritual rock** which **was Christ** alludes to several things.

Important observation: The word **all** is used 5X in the first 4 verses. . . . **ALL** under the cloud . . . **ALL** passed through the sea; and **ALL** were baptized into Moses . . . **ALL** ate the same spiritual food; and **ALL** drank the same spiritual drink, . . .

1 Corinthians 10:5: *Nevertheless, with **most** of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.*

The Lesson: It's possible that although God grants blessings to a certain group of people, that many who are involved with that group do not share the blessings in the fullest sense.

I. **Bad Attitudes Cause Trouble** (1-5)

II. **Bad Actions Cause Trouble** (6-10)

1 Corinthians 10:6: *Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.*

What these examples have in common is _____
_____ .

1. **Bad Worship** (Idolatry)

1 Corinthians 10:7: *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."*

Idolaters refers to anyone who gives allegiance, sacrifices, honor, offerings or service to any other so-called god. The tragic events are recorded in Exodus 32.

**If idolatry displeased God then, it displeases God now.
Idolatry is anything that usurps allegiance you should give to God.**

2. **Bad Morals** (Sexual sins)

1 Corinthians 10:8: *Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.*

That refers to Numbers 25:1-9.

**If God hated immorality in the days of Israel in the wilderness
and God hated immorality in the church at Corinth in the first century,
God hates immorality now.**

3. **Bad Attitudes** (Complaining)

The incident is recorded in Numbers 21:4–6. Here's the New Testament commentary:

1 Corinthians 10:9: *Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.*

The word for **try** is *peirazo*, which means “put to the test.” The bad attitude is pressing to _____ to please you and make you comfortable.

**If God hated grumbling in Israel in the wilderness,
God hates grumbling now in our lives and in our church.**

4. **Bad Mouthing** (Undermining Godly leaders)

1 Corinthians 10:10: *Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.*

Numbers 14:26–34:

Numbers 16:

The word translated **grumble** is a synonym for _____. In this case, it's specifically applied to gossip pointed at _____. See Hebrews 13:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.

**If God hated grumbling in the days of Israel,
God hates grumbling now.**

III. **Therefore, Don't . . .**

A. **Be Overconfident (11-12)**

1 Corinthians 10:11-12: *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. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.*

The work of God can be severely hampered, and blessing withheld, for idolatry, for immorality, for complaining and for grumbling.

III. **Therefore, Don't . . .**

B. **Be Over-dramatic (13a)**

1 Corinthians 10:13a: *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man;*

The word **temptation** (*peirasmos*) literally means **test**. It can be a simple test of your faith, or it can be a test in the sense of temptation to do evil.

When your faith is tested or you face temptation, it's normal to think your situation is unique, and that no one else has ever had it so tough. Not so!

IV. **Therefore, Do . . .**

A. **Know Your God (13b)**

B. **Know Your Power (13c)**

1 Corinthians 10:13: . . . *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.*

Do you see two promises in this verse, based on God's faithfulness?

1) He will never allow you _____.

2) He will always provide _____.

What is the normal way for you to escape temptation and testing?

He God provides you with the _____ to stand against the _____ . See also Romans 12:2.