

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 10:6-13

This week's lesson is longer than some, so please remember to begin your study early in the week!

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-13.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us,
that we might not desire evil
as they did.

⁷Do not be idolaters
as some of them were;
as it is written,
“The people sat down to eat and drink
and rose up to play.”

⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality
as some of them did,
and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

⁹We must not put Christ to the test,
as some of them did
and were destroyed by serpents,

¹⁰nor grumble,
as some of them did
and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example,
but they were written down for our instruction,
on whom the end of the ages has come.

¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed
lest he fall.

¹³No temptation has overtaken you
that is not common to man.

God is faithful,
and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability,
but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape,
that you may be able to endure it.

1. Which sentence contains the main conclusion in this passage, and how do you know?
2. Who are “they/them” in this passage?

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3. Why does Paul say that the incidents he references in this passage took place, and from where in the text do you get your answer?
4. According to verse 6, what are we to learn from their example?
5. In verse 7a, how does Paul describe some of the Israelites?
6. In verse 7b, Paul quotes from Exodus 32:6. Read Exodus 32:1-8. This “[sitting] down to eat and drink and [rising] up to play” is a description of the feast the people held to worship the golden calf. This description tells us that they were following the example of the pagan nations around them who worshipped their gods with lavish drunken meals, riotous games, and various forms of sexual immorality. Note that some of the pagan feasts in Corinth continued these same practices. Why do you think Paul quotes the part that refers to sexual immorality rather than the part about making a statue when addressing their idolatry?
7. In verse 8, what does Paul say that they did, and what was the result?
8. Read Numbers 25:1-9. What is the relationship here between sexual immorality and idolatry? How does one promote the other?
9. In verse 9, what does Paul say that they did, and what was the result?

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10. Read Numbers 21:4-9.

- a. Were the Israelites taking a direct route?
- b. How might this have contributed to their discontent?
- c. Remember the manna and quail that we read about last week in Exodus 16. According to Numbers 21, what was the Israelites' attitude toward what God had given them?
- d. What "test" did the Israelites put to Christ?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-13 again.

- 11. In verse 10, what does Paul say that they did, and what was the result?
- 12. Remember the Israelites' grumbling that we read about last week in Numbers 14. Now read Numbers 16. What do these accounts reveal about their attitude toward God's guidance and provisions? (see 14:11 and 16:30b)
- 13. How are all of these instances examples of idolatrous hearts, and how might such idolatrous hearts be displayed today?

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14. What is Paul's warning in verse 12?
15. Based on what we have learned through 1 Corinthians so far, why do you think that Paul thinks this warning is necessary to give to the Corinthians?
16. According to verse 13, how many people experience these kinds of temptations?
17. Who is the primary actor in verse 13?
18. List the three things Paul says about God in verse 13.
19. What does this say about God's awareness of our temptations?
20. According to verse 13, what should be the end result for believers when they face temptation?
21. What does the "[ability] to endure it" in verse 13 indicate about the possible timing of the escape path?

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❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-13 again.

22. If God has faithfully provided the means to endure any temptation, then why do believers still fall into sin by giving in to temptations?

23. How does this week's passage relate to Paul's instructions about running to win the prize in 9:24-27?

24. In chapter 8, who did Paul say was at risk for falling due to the decision of some of the Corinthians to attend the feasts at the idol temples?

25. In this week's passage, who does Paul imply is at risk for falling due to the decision of some of the Corinthians to attend the feasts at the idol temples?

26. When someone is facing a potentially dangerous situation, there are two main courses of action to choose between – charge ahead or flee away. A person who thinks he is strong enough in himself to overcome the threat will choose to charge ahead, but the person who recognizes his weakness will seek to escape away to a safe place of refuge. Look ahead to 10:14. What course of action will Paul command, and what impact should this have on the Corinthians?

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27. In our own lives today, describe some of the various ways that God might provide a way of escape in the face of temptation?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we will not desire evil and that our hearts will not seek satisfaction away from God. Pray that we will not be discontent with the Lord's guidance and provisions but that we will trust Him. Pray that we will successfully escape temptation as we look to our faithful God.