

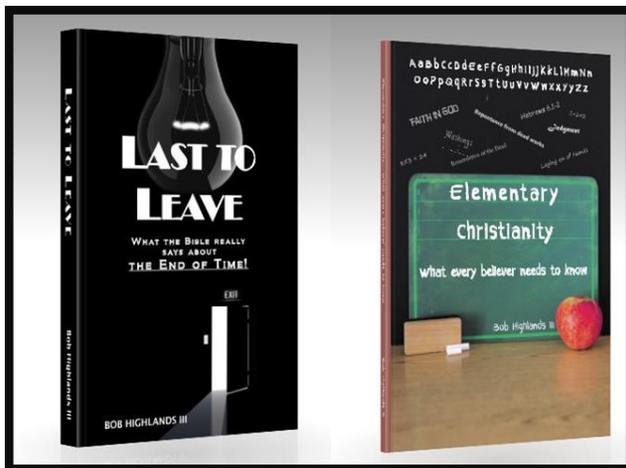
## **1 Corinthians Study Guide**

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## **THE FIFTH PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH**

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The translation quoted here is the New International Version (NIV)

### **Avoiding Temptations and the snares of the enemy** **1 Corinthians 8.1-13 & 10.1 thru 11.1**

A major problem for many coming out of pagan religions in the first century was breaking their ties to idol worship. They were surrounded by idols, temples and even much of the meat sold in the local markets came from the temples. After the sacrifice the priest and those living in the temple were able to eat and sell the meat. This allowed them to have additional income and support for the priest and temple prostitutes. Some thought that eating meat that had been offered in the temple would protect, heal and spiritually strengthen them. For someone who had been a pagan and worshiped in the temple the eating of such meat was a conflict of their conscience and for some a way of turning away from Christ. There appears to have even been restaurants in the temples where you could go and have a meal made with idol meat. (see 1 Cor. 8.10) This temptation or conflict of conscience was a constant struggle for some of them. These new believers still had friends and family who were pagans and who ate this meat as part of their daily lives. Paul tries to help the believers know how to handle this problem in their lives. We can learn about temptation and the snares of the enemy and how we can deal with them through his approach to eating meat offered to idols.

## **Part ONE: 1 Corinthians 8.1-13**

Paul was strong in his own faith and at the same time understood that some were weak because of their background and former life. Here he tries to help them see two approaches to eating meat offered to idols.

- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.1 What is the problem some of them are facing?
  
- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.2 If someone thinks he is superior or knows more than others on this subject, what does Paul think of them?
  
- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.3 What is the key to a solid Christian life? Why?
  
- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.4 What does Paul think about idols as far as God goes?
  
- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.5 Why would Paul even suggest the presence of other gods?
  
- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.6 What is the proper point of view when thinking about God and idols?

- ◆ What is your personal approach in making preparations for coming temptations? (see also Luke 22.40)
  
- ◆ What should you do when tempted? (see also Matthew 4.1-11)
  
- ◆ What is the ultimate goal as we live for Jesus? (see 1 Corinthians 10.33)

Ultimately the personal freedom of the believer is not personal nor is it a freedom. It is our responsibility as believers to know our witness is also our testimony to the world around us about our belief in Jesus as our Lord and savior. We may not personally be tempted by some matters but if we know it would hurt others or cause them to doubt we are responsible to respond in a caring and Christ like manner.

Yet, we cannot allow others to stop or hinder our freedom in Christ. Those who want to control and manipulate will often try to do this through rules and man-made regulations that are designed to enslave and hamper.

In the end I can do all things through Christ, but there are times I should not do all things because of my love for Christ and those he came to save. Bob Highlands III

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- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.32 What attitude should dictate our behavior in the world of non-believers and believers?
- ◆ How would this help our witness to non-believers?
- ◆ How would this help the believers in their church life?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.33 What was Paul's attitude in such situations?
- ◆ What was his ultimate goal in the way he lived his life?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.1 How did Paul's personal approach influence how he lived his daily life?

### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

- ◆ How can Paul's teachings about personal freedom be a benefit to the believers today?
- ◆ How can a believer abuse their personal freedom and hurt others?

- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.7 What would cause other believers to have a problem understanding this or applying it to their lives?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.8 What is the attitude Paul wants them to have toward food?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.9-10 Even if a believer has no problem with meat offered to idols how could this still hurt someone else?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.11 What is the knowledge the person has and how could it effect their relationship with Jesus?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.12 How could eating meat offered to an idol be sinning against another believer?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 8.13 How would Paul approach such a situation?
- ◆ How could this be applied to other situations in a believers life?
- ◆ What were the two approaches Paul used when giving advice about meat offered to idols.

- ◆ How could each approach be used by believers today in dealing with modern temptations and issues?

### **Part TWO: 1 Corinthians 10.1 thru 11.1**

Paul knew the believers at Corinth too well and must have been concerned they would take what he had already said about eating meat offered to idols the wrong way. He must have decided to clarify and explain it further. Here he returns to the question of idols and food offered to idols. He shows a deep concern for those who may be having a problem with the matter of idols and food offered to idols as he returns to the subject. He also wants those who do not have a problem with idol meat to be considerate of those who do.

- ◆ 1 Cor. 10. 1-4 What past event(s) is Paul making reference to?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.4 How could Christ be the rock that the Hebrews got water from in the wilderness? (see Exodus 17.1-6 for details.)
- ◆ Read Numbers 32.10-13 Why did this happen to the Hebrews?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.5 Even though they had been in the presence of the essence of Christ and drank from the water provided through him what happened to them?

- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.25-27 What is the basic attitude each believer was to take concerning meat?

- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.28-29 How is the believer supposed to respond here?

- ◆ Why should they respond this way?

- ◆ Why would there be two different approaches to the eating of meat that may have been offered to idols.

- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.30 Who would slander the person for eating meat offered to idols?

- ◆ Why would this make a believer not do this?

- ◆ How can this be applied to the life of believers today?

### **CONCLUSION**

- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.31 What is the ultimate goal of a believer?

- ◆ When should this be applied to the life of a believer?

- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.17 How does communion unite the believers together?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.18 What parallel does Paul draw between communion of the believer and the sacrifices under the Law of Moses?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.19-20 How are the sacrifices to idols viewed by Paul?
- ◆ Is this something a believer should be part of? Why?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.21 Why does Paul say you cannot do both?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.22 If a person does how could they put themselves in danger like they did in the wilderness when they went against God over and over?

#### **ADVICE THAT MATTERS**

- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.23 What does Paul mean by this statement?
- ◆ How can this be applied to your life?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.24 What is the key point Paul is trying to make about our individual freedom and responsibility to other believers?

- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.6 How could this be a warning to many modern believers who want the benefits of believing without the sacrifice of obedience and service?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.7 How does Paul change or expand the concept of being an idolater?
- ◆ What teaching of the modern churches could fall into this category?
- ◆ Read Numbers 25.1-9 What sin did the people commit that caused God to punish them.
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.8 How does Paul describe the Hebrews sin?
- ◆ Read Numbers 21.5-9 What did the Hebrews wrong here and suffer for it?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.9 How could a modern believer try the Lord?
- ◆ Read Number 16.41-49 What caused the plague to come upon the Hebrews?

- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.10 What does it mean to grumble and how can it become part of a church?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.11 What is the reason Paul give for the Old Testament record of these events?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.12 What does it mean “who thinks he stands?”
- ◆ How can 1 Corinthians 1.29 and 1.31 show us the positive and negative side of this taking a personal stand?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.12 What is Paul’s ultimate goal in reminding the church at Corinth of all the mistakes the Hebrews took following God in the wilderness?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.13 What does Paul mean when he speaks about common temptations?
- ◆ How is God involved in the process of our temptation?
- ◆ Read James 1.13-14 Does God have anything to do with our being tempted?

- ◆ Who is ultimately responsible for anyone giving in to temptation. (see James 1.14)
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.13 What does God do to help a person who is being tempted?
- ◆ How could this be applied to a person having trouble with the temptation of food from idols?
- ◆ How could this be applied to our lives as believers today?

### **UNDERSTANDING THE BIG PICTURE**

- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.14 How is this possibly the easiest and best solution to a person who has a problem with temptation?
- ◆ How would a person apply this to their daily life?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.15 Who does Paul hold responsible for following or rejecting this advice?
- ◆ Why is this the right way for Paul to handle this?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10.16 When a believer takes communion are they participating with Christ? How?