

Fleeing Idolatry, Part 2: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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Key Truth:

Worshippers of Christ must learn to discern the spiritual meaning behind our shared experiences.

Idolatry, quite simply, is anything that means more to me than God. In this chapter Paul reminds the Jewish Corinthian Christians of their shared heritage as God's chosen people. The spiritual food and drink their ancestors experienced in the wilderness were memorials to God's faithfulness. God gives us memorials to help guard against idolatry. However, the vulnerability of memorials is that they can *become* idols.

DISCUSS

Read **1 Corinthians 10:14-22** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **Fleeing Idolatry**.

DIG IN

In this section, Paul expands of the idea of shared experiences to remind the Corinthians of the fellowship they experience in Christ.

1. The Delight of Fellowship. (1 Corinthians 10:14-19)

The word "participation" (v. 16, ESV), is the Greek word *koinōnia*, which we often define as "fellowship" – mutual communion, partnership, shared life, the life of the body. How does your version translate that word? What does that look like in the church today?

In what ways is taking the Lord's Supper together a means of "participation" in the life of the Body?

In what ways is this a passive (receptive) experience?

In what ways is this an active (giving) experience?

Why is priestly (see 1 Peter 1:9) service an important activity in the life of the Body? What does that look like practically?

2. The Dark Side of Fellowship: Spiritual Adultery.

(1 Corinthians 10:20-22)

Paul teaches that meat sacrificed to idols is of no consequence (vv. 19-20a). However meat eaten in the context of a pagan ritual is dangerous (v. 20b). Why?

What are the consequences of this?

What are some examples of syncretism (the amalgamation of different religions, ideologies, or worldviews into Christianity) today?

DO

Examine your life. What kinds of things do you tend to *syncretize* into the Christian faith?