

Presuming on God – Part 2

1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

(See “Presuming on God – Part 1 for an exposition of 1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

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January 25-26, 2014

Command #3: DON'T PARTNER WITH DEMONS.

Therefore, my dear people, run away from idolatry. ¹⁵I'm speaking as to intelligent people: you yourselves must weigh my words. ¹⁶The cup of blessing which we bless is a sharing in the Messiah's blood, isn't it? The bread we break is a sharing in the Messiah's body, isn't it? ¹⁷There is one loaf; well, then, there may be several of us, but we are one body, because we all share the one loaf. ¹⁸Consider ethnic Israel. Those who eat from the sacrifices share in the altar, don't they? ¹⁹So what am I saying? That idol-food is real, or that an idol is a real being? ²⁰No: but when they offer sacrifices, they offer them to demons, not to a god. And I don't want you to be table-partners with demons. ²¹You can't drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You can't share in the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²²Surely you don't want to provoke the Lord to jealousy? We aren't stronger than him, are we?
1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (Translation by N.T. Wright)

How Idolatry is Partnering with a Demon

- Argument, Part 1: When you take the Lord's Supper, you bond with Jesus and since you do it together, you share in Him together.
- Argument, Part 2: When the nation of Israel worshiped in the Temple they shared in the sacrifice and shared God's presence together.
- Argument, Part 3: In the same way, if you eat and drink in the temple of an idol, you are sharing in the life of that idol and bonding with a demon.
- Argument, Part 4: Christians can't switch their allegiance back and forth between Jesus and an idol without a consequence.

Command #4: ALWAYS USE YOUR FREEDOM TO GLORIFY GOD.

'Everything is lawful,' but not everything is helpful. 'Everything is lawful,' but not everything builds you up. ²⁴Nobody should seek their own advantage, but their neighbours instead.

²⁵Eat whatever is sold in the market without making any judgments on the basis of conscience.

²⁶'The earth and its fullness' after all, 'belong to the Lord.'²⁷If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner, and you want to go, eat whatever is put in front of you without making any judgments on the basis of conscience. ²⁸But if someone says 'This was offered in sacrifice,' then don't eat it—because of the person who told you about it, and because of conscience, ²⁹by which I don't mean your own conscience, but your neighbours. For why should my freedom be condemned by someone else's conscience? ³⁰If I eat my share gratefully, why should someone else speak evil of me because of something I've given thanks for? ³¹So, then, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do everything to God's glory. ³²Be blameless before Jews and Greeks and the church of God, ³³just as I try to please everybody in everything, not pursuing my own advantage, but that of the great majority, so that they might be saved. ^{11:1}Copy me, just as I'm copying the Messiah. 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 (Translation by N.T. Wright)