

(1st Corinthians 10:1-33)
“Faithful Without Compromise”

~ INTRO ~

NOW...

- As we come to (1 Cor. 10)...
 - Paul is continuing a conversation...
 - That really started back in (chapter 8).
- He’s been talking about Christian liberty the whole time.

THE CHRISTIANS IN CORINTH...

- Understood that an idol was nothing.
 - AND they understood that eating certain foods...
 - Didn’t somehow make them more spiritual or less spiritual.

Their theology wasn’t completely wrong.

- Their problem was what they were doing with that theology.

They were essentially saying...

- “If I have freedom to do something, then why shouldn't I?”

(chapter 8) “Think about your brother.”

(chapter 9) “Look at my example.

- I willingly surrender my rights for the sake of the gospel.”

~ STUDY ~

TODAY... IN (chapter 10) – *Be careful with your own heart!*

- Christian maturity isn’t measured by how much...
 - Freedom you can consume.
 - BUT... by how faithfully you follow Jesus.

IDEA #1 – LEARN FROM THOSE WHO FELL (vv.1-12)

IMMEDIATELY...

- Paul takes the church back into Israel's history.
 - They saw God's power in Egypt...
 - They passed through the Red Sea...

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- And experienced His supernatural provision in the wilderness.

Israel had been surrounded by the evidence of God's faithfulness.

- (v.5) “*But with most of them God was not well pleased.*”
 - That’s the warning.

THEY HAD EXPERIENCED...

- God’s goodness...
 - But somewhere along the way they began taking God for granted.

AND PAUL SAYS...

- These things were written as examples for us (v.6) / (v.11).
- The Old Testament isn’t simply telling us what happened to them.
 - It’s teaching us what can happen in us. – *spiritual drift*.

REMEMBER...

- Some fell into idolatry (v.7)
- Some fell into sexual immorality (v.8)
- Some tested the Lord (v.9)
- Some complained against God (v.10)

The sins were all different...

- But the underlying problem was the same.
 - Their hearts had drifted away from the Lord.

AND FINALLY... (v.12)

- Paul makes the application...
 - “*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*”

THIS DOESN’T MEAN...

- We should live our Christian lives terrified...
 - That we’re going to fall apart at any moment.

NO!

- It means we should never become spiritually overconfident.

SOMETIMES...

- The most dangerous place spiritually is when we start thinking...

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- I’ve been walking with Jesus long enough...
 - I can handle this.

BUT PAUL SAYS – *Take heed!*

Think about it... it’s not...

- “How long have YOU walked with Jesus?”
 - It’s... “Are YOU walking with Him right now?”

IDEA #2 – TRUST GOD WHEN TEMPTATION COMES (vv. 13-22)

NOW...

- One of the most encouraging verses in this chapter (v.13):

*“No temptation has overtaken you
except such as is common to man; but God is faithful.”*

That’s where our confidence belongs.

- Because every believer experiences temptation.

God promises that temptation...

- Never puts us into a situation where sin is our **only option.**
- God will provide a way of escape so that we can bear it (v.13c)

And immediately afterward he says: *“Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”*

REMEMBER...

- The immediate context is Israel’s failure in the wilderness.
- They had experienced God’s provision...
 - Yet their hearts were repeatedly drawn toward substitutes for God.

IN 2026...

- **Modern idols are usually good things that quietly replace God.**

HERE’S ONE: *The idol of self.*

- One of the dominant idols in our culture is the idol of self...

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- *My life belongs to me.*
- *My desires define me.*
- *My happiness matters more.*

BUT... the gospel says something very different – **my life belongs to Christ.**

The Corinthian Christians were playing around the edges of idolatry...

- And saying,
 - “*We know these idols aren't really gods, so what's the big deal?*”

PAUL SAYS...

- The spiritual reality is more serious than they realized.

APPLICATION QUESTION:

Where has God already shown you the exit...

- But you keep hanging around the temptation?

IDEA #3 – LIVE FOR SOMETHING GREATER (vv.23-33)

By the end of the chapter...

- Paul brings the whole discussion back to Christian liberty.

(v.23) “*All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful.*”

THAT’S THE KEY...

- Something can be permissible and still not be wise.
 - And something within my Christian liberty...
 - May not build anyone else up.

Paul is trying to move the Corinthians beyond the question of: **“Can I?”**

- He wants them to ask something deeper: **“Should I?”**
 - Asking a question that goes beyond ourselves.

MAKE THIS PERSONAL...

“Is there something in your life that you keep defending because you have the freedom to do it. Yet that freedom, is actually getting in the way of honoring God?”

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That’s worth praying about!

~ IN CLOSING ~

(v. 31) “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

That’s the goal.

- Not simply staying away from sin.
- Not simply figuring out what you’re allowed to do.

Grace was never given to us...

- So we could see how close to compromise we could live.

Grace frees us to live for something greater – The glory of God!

Christian maturity isn’t measured...

- By how much freedom you can exercise.
 - It’s demonstrated by how faithfully you follow Jesus.