



Bible Study Outline for 1 Corinthians 10:1-12

Some Things We Should Not Do

TH**ERE ARE TIMES** in the Bible when God goes to great length to make something absolutely clear. The apostle lists a number of things we, as Christians, must not do. If we do, we are fools. The price of disobedience can not be measured by statistics or even by temporal observations. The high cost is nothing other than the disapproval of Almighty God! The wilderness experience of the Israelites is a divinely purposed illustration of how God's people can, through disobedience and lack of faith, incur His displeasure. We are admonished to take heed lest we fall by the same example of unbelief (vv. 5 cf. 11, 12). Exactly how, or to what extent, the saint will realize the loss at the Judgment Seat of Christ due to a life carelessly lived or a ministry compromisingly performed is not known. But one day we will understand—from an eternal perspective—the terrible loss suffered, both in usefulness now, and in reward then. He sees and knows all that we do or don't do as a Christian, and it does matter to Him whether it matters to us or not. If it doesn't—it will! A word to the wise is hopefully sufficient (v. 15).

II. We Should Not Lust—Verse 6

- A. "*Lust*"—a strong desire for that which God has either forbidden or withheld. Compromise with worldliness; our desires focused on the temporal. We can set our hearts upon even good things, and that can become lust whenever that longing displaces God's will.
- B. **Note Numbers 11:4-6.** God's redeemed people grew dissatisfied with God's provision in the wilderness and turned back (in their heart's desires) to seek satisfaction once again from the things of Egypt left behind.
- C. We must seek only to do God's will and the riches of Christ. Money, leisure, fame, attainments, etc., can be used by the devil to turn us aside from following God.

II. We Should Not Be Idolaters—Verse 7

- A. "*Idolatry*"—the attribution to something or some one else the glory that should go only to God. Highly regarding anything more than our Lord and His Word. First allegiance is to a program, church, or man, etc.
- B. **Note Exodus 32:1-9.** A golden calf made while Moses was on the mount (v.1); superficially to the Lord (vv. 5, 6), but the carnal heart seeks to worship the visual and sensual. The "noise of war in the camp" (v. 17) the "celebration" that goes on in contemporary worship comes to mind!
- C. God will never share His glory (v. 8). We tend too often to praise men, institutions, results. We also tend to equate religious activity that fans the flesh with that of godly worship and service—not so if it is not according to Truth. To whom or to what do we

bow down? Showmanship? Scholarship? Statistics? Fun? It must only be to our God as revealed in His Word.

III. We Should Not Commit Fornication-Verse 8

- A. "*Fornication*"-Infidelity; betraying the sacred trust of faithfulness and undivided devotion. Sin of spiritual unfaithfulness is a dominant theme running throughout the Bible from Genesis through the Revelation.
- B. **Note Numbers 25:1-3.** The vileness of the fleshly wickedness is exceeded only by the enormity of the spiritual fornication! They listened, they joined in, they bowed down—God's wrath was rightfully kindled (cf 31:8, 16). Note also 31:7-8, 16 cf. 23:27-30—the sin on Peor was spiritual, not physical. We must understand how God views error or any kind.
- C. We must not violate God's lines of separation concerning right worship and fellowship. Spiritual infidelity is a grievous sin—"filthiness of the flesh *and the spirit*" (study 2 Cor. 6:14-7: 1)! Bad doctrine is viewed by God as a spiritual blight that must be kept away from His people.

IV. We Should Not Tempt Christ-Verse 9

- A. "*Tempt Christ*"-The doubting of God's faithfulness when faced with opposition or a sore trial; questioning His presence and approval when faced with adversity and opposition.
- B. **Note Exodus 17:1-3, 6, 7.** They questioned God—doubt and despair rather than faith and patience. Note Numbers 21:4, 5. Was God able? Absolutely! But the problem comes when we do not act like we believe it.
- C. Do we ever wonder whether or not it is really worth it to walk in obedience to the Word when so many could not care less? Is the Fundamental, separatist's position worth all the hassle? If what we believe and do squares with Scripture, if it is what God's Word commands, then it sure is! Don't second-guess God.

V. We Should Not Murmur-Verse 10

- A. "*Murmur*"-An undercurrent of dissatisfaction and discord; the opposite of enthusiastic and heartfelt support of the work of the Lord.
- B. **Note Numbers 13:33; 14:2, 27.** Instead of going forward to victory, they sat back and murmured. Their carcasses fell in the desert (v. 33 cf. Heb. 3:12-17); only Joshua and Caleb entered in, and that was because of their "good report" through faith (14:6-9; 37, 38).
- C. Instead of murmuring, we should rejoice in the open doors and the battle set before us—we should move forward in obedience and confidence. Difficulties and the opposition will certainly come, but let's be very careful not to meet them with an undercurrent of murmuring and dissent. Rejoice in the Lord always (memorize Phil. 4:4-7)!

Conclusion: These examples of Israel's problems are for learning and admonition (1 Cor. 10: 11). Do we think that we do not need to be warned and reminded of the pitfalls of Satan? Think again (v. 12)! Each one of us are either pleasing, or displeasing, the Lord with the way in which we walk. Each of us are either doing these things or we are not. Which is it? DWC