



Reflection Questions Pride and Idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:1-11:1)

1. What do we think of, when we think of idolatry?

In 1 Corinthians 8-9, we discovered that some “strong” Corinthians were going to temples to eat sacrificed meals (8:10). Other “weak” Christians were seeing this, and being tempted to follow, causing them to experience guilt at what felt like apostasy. In response to this, Paul urged the strong Corinthians to use their freedom and rights to love and serve their weak brothers, by not leading them astray (8:13). In 10:1-22, Paul adds a number of new arguments to this thought. Then in vv. 23-33, he addresses a new yet related situation.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-11:1.

2. What lessons from Israel’s history does Paul want the Corinthians to learn (vv. 1-14)?
3. What hope does God provide through his promise in v. 13? How will that hope help you when you’re being tempted?
4. What two known situation does Paul use to infer an argument concerning temple meals in vv. 15-22?
5. How can an idol be nothing and yet such meals still be demonic?
6. Putting this all together, what is the appropriate response Christians should have to eating in temples?
7. Do you feel these fit with Paul’s argument in chaps. 8-9, or are in conflict?
8. What new situation is Paul addressing in vv. 23-33?
9. What response should Christians have for this new situation? Why might it be different from eating in temples?
10. How might 11:1 finish off Paul’s argument in chaps. 8-10?

Implications

11. In what situations might we be tempted to do something akin to eating in a temple? How should we respond?
12. In what situations might we be tempted to do something akin to eating food sacrificed to idols in someone’s one? How should we respond?
13. In our culture, where are the big pulls towards idolatry? How might we flee from them?