

## **The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians**

### **Fellowship and Participation Around a Table**

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

1. **Evacuate** (v.14)

Israel was constantly in danger of sinning against the Lord because of their proclivity for idolatry (cf. 1 Cor. 10:6-11). They were in danger of becoming too familiar and comfortable with those things which are detestable to the Lord. There is no spiritual benefit to needlessly expose oneself to circumstances or environments that may serve to erode the resolve for righteousness. The wise option is to run away from these circumstances or environments (Gen. 39:12; Dan. 1:8; cf. 1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22).

2. **Evaluate** (vs.15-18)

The Corinthians are now being called to assess the relationship between observing the Lord's Supper, sharing with Jesus in the activity that it represents (cf. 1 Cor. 11:23-26), and being unified with all who likewise are doing the same (v.17). This partnership with God and with the others who worship God in the same manner is not unique to the Christian faith, it was historically the case for Israel as well (v.18).

3. **Extrapolate** (vs.19-20)

While there is nothing substantive about an idol itself (1 Cor. 8:4), there is a real danger that demons may animate idols in order to further deceive those who worship it. Demons are not to be treated casually (Jude 8-10; cf. Acts 19:11-17). The Christian cannot share in any sacrificial meal without participating in the worship of the conception of god to whom the meal has been sacrificed (cf. Ex. 32:1-6, 25-28).

4. **Eliminate** (vs.21-22)

It is common for people to sit at both the table of the Lord and the table of idols, but it is impossible to maintain fellowship with the Lord while doing so (cf. 1 John 1:5-6). The Lord is jealous when His holiness is disregarded, and His righteous anger is justified when it is poured out onto anyone who has provoked Him (Num. 20:8-13; cf. Acts 5:1-11). Whatever the social benefit of gathering in an idol's temple might be, the Christian ought to first consider the cost that gathering might incur (1 Cor. 10:6-11; cf. 1 Cor. 11:30).