

The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians

Do Not Crave Evil Things

1 Corinthians 10:1-11

1. **Do Not Be An Idolater** (v.7)

Idolatry was an ever-present danger for Israel (Ex. 20:1-5; 23:23-24), and it was a continual danger for the church (1 John 5:21). A distinctive mark of the Christian faith is that turning to Christ was simultaneously a turning away from the worship of idols (1 Thess. 1:9). Because idolatry is common in the culture, compromising the truth and justifying idolatrous activity is easy (cf. Ex. 32:1ff).

2. **Do Not Act Immorally** (v.8)

Immorality has been the area of sin which has contributed to the difficulty and downfall of many of God's people (e.g. Samson, David, Solomon). It is a sin that is encouraged by false teachers (2 Pet. 2:13-15; Jude 11) and other enemies of the church (cf. Rev. 2:14, 20). Israel's sinfulness in the spectacle of the golden calf (Ex. 32:6), as well as their sin at Peor (Num. 25:1-9), were marked by sexual immorality. One of the clearest biblical commands that God has given to all of His people is that we should abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thess. 4:3). Sexual immorality begins in the heart where lust is habitually indulged long before a believer acts out sexual immorally (Matt. 5:27-30; 15:19; Jam. 1:13-15).

3. **Do Not Test the Lord** (v.9)

Christians can put the Lord to the test by making faith or obedience contingent upon a sign from God (cf. Matt 4:5-7), or even by making a discontented request of God (Num 6:16; cf. Ex. 17:1-7). One way to test the Lord is to push the limits of His patience and mercy is to not treat Him as holy (Acts 5:9) or to add to His requirements (cf. Acts 15:10). In insisting to do that which they had been instructed to abstain, the Corinthians were trying the patience of the Lord (cf. Acts 15:19-20; 1 Cor. 8:10; Rev. 2:14, 20).

4. **Do Not Grumble** (v.10)

Israel repeatedly grumbled against both the Lord and Moses (Ex. 15:24; 16:2; 17:3; Num. 11:1; 14:2). Their grumbles were not always clearly irreligious and were sometimes even cloaked in truth (Num. 16:1-3, 11). Grumbling against God's provision and God's providence is a sign of a lack of contentment in God and in what He has provided (Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6-11).