

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? - 1 Corinthians 10:16

I. THINK WISE, BE WISE

- Paul exhorts the Corinthians to flee idolatry, which he has just declared possible in verse 13.
- Paul speaks to “people of good sense”. He appeals to the wisdom God has given them, not to his own authority. They must think clearly, and for themselves (Rom. 15:14; 1 Cor. 2:15, 11:13).

II. PARTICIPATION AND THE LORD’S SUPPER

- Paul refers back to the Passover meal and the four cups of blessing. It is a cup of blessing or “thanksgiving” (Matt. 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 9:16, 22:17; 1 Cor. 11:24).
- As we participate in the Lord’s Supper, so the people of Israel participated in the “altar” when they engaged in the sacrificial offer. An act of unity occurs as we become participants.
- Paul makes a distinction. The food nor the idol are anything of importance. However, the demons behind the idol become the participants (Vs. 20; Deut. 32:15-18).
- Paul wants to be clear. Participation in the Lord’s supper brings unity with Christ and his church; participation in occult practice brings participation and unity with demons. He does not want that for us (Vs 20).
- One cannot be a Christ-follower and participate both in the Lord’s Supper and demonic practices. They are incompatible (James 4:11).
- Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than him, however boastful we may be. It cannot end well. We must choose whom we will serve (Josh. 24:14-15).

KNOW: Paul exhorts the Corinthians to flee idolatry that takes form in the misapplication and misuse of the Lord's Supper. The Corinthians are mixing Christ with demons, and that can never end well.

DO: Do not provoke the Lord to jealousy. Choose today whom you will serve.

Suggested Reading:

Understanding the Lord's Supper by Jamison and Leeman
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

The Lord's Supper: Eternal Word in Broken Bread by Robert Letham
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

For Teens:

Communion and the Lord's Supper - Booklet
(Available in the LifePoint Teen Library)

Next Week's Text: 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please Read I Corinthians 10:14-22

1. What does Paul want the Corinthians to do? Why?
2. What does it mean to participate in the Lord's Supper?
3. Are demons real? If so, why should we avoid participating with them?
4. Are demons in the food? Are idols themselves to be feared?
5. Why can't we participate in the Lord's Supper and continue to participate in the demonic realm?
6. What does it mean that the Lord is provoked to jealousy? (see vs. 22; Deut. 32:15-22).
7. What is your response to this text?