

1 Corinthians

Verse by Verse



**Letter to a
Problematic
Church**



1 Corinthians 10

Letter to a Problematic Church



Introduction

The Text of
1 Corinthians 10

Conclusions

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 10



**Previously in
1 Corinthians**

**What's in
1 Cor. 10?**

Key Verses



Previously in 1 Corinthians

- Paul began by confronting some problems in the Corinthian church.
- He then moved toward answering questions they had regarding the practice of their faith.
- Last week he gave this church an explanation of his own philosophy of ministry.

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 10



**Previously in
1 Corinthians**

**What's in
1 Cor. 10?**

Key Verses



What's in 1 Corinthians 10?

- In this chapter, Paul returns to one of the church's questions - that of eating meat sacrificed to idols.
- Paul was not bound by rigid rules, but one of his freedoms was the freedom to not do as he pleased.
- He saw that there was much more at stake than whether he was capable of exercising his rights.

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 10



**Previously in
1 Corinthians**

**What's in
1 Cor. 10?**

Key Verses



Key Verses

- This chapter contains a lot of important verses.
- We will discuss them as we go through the chapter and then repeat them all in the end.

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 10



**Previously in
1 Corinthians**

**What's in
1 Cor. 10?**

Key Verses

1 Corinthians 10

Letter to a Problematic Church



Introduction

The Text of
1 Corinthians 10

Conclusions

The Text of 1 Corinthians 10



**Past
Examples
10:1-13**

**Flee Idolatry
10:14-22**

**Do All for
God's Glory
10:23-33**



Past Examples 10:1-13

In this section Paul lists **four privileges** the ancient Israelites enjoyed and then **four failures** by those same people.

He then teases out several implications and applications for us.

Privileges and
Failures

Direct
Applications

Further
Important
Points

Four Privileges and Four Failures

Four Privileges - 1) Supernatural guidance by the cloud, 2) Supernatural rescue through the Red Sea, 3) Supernatural provision of food, 4) Supernatural provision of water.

To top it off, Paul declares that Christ was spiritually present with them throughout their time in the wilderness.

Four Failures - 1) Idolatry with the golden calf, 2) Sexual sin with thousands of pagan women, 3) Testing the Lord by complaining against him and his servant Moses, 4) Further grumbling against the leadership of Moses and Aaron.



Past Examples 10:1-13

In this section Paul lists **four privileges** the ancient Israelites enjoyed and then **four failures** by those same people.

He then teases out several implications and applications for us.

Privileges and
Failures

Direct
Applications

Further
Important
Points

Direct Applications

- We also have Christ with us, "I will be with you always."
- He has saved us supernaturally by his death on the cross. Our privileges are actually greater than theirs.
- Yet, we may still fall into idolatry through engaging in covetousness or our preferred false concepts of God.
- Christians frequently fall into sexual sin just as the Israelites did - but usually do not immediately die.
- We may often still grumble against God when we are not thankful for his goodness and provision.



Past Examples 10:1-13

In this section Paul lists **four privileges** the ancient Israelites enjoyed and then **four failures** by those same people.

He then teases out several implications and applications for us.

Privileges and
Failures

Direct
Applications

Further
Important
Points

Further Important Points

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Verse 11

Verse 12

Verse 13

Verse 11

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

- Here Paul insists upon the relevance of the Old Testament for Christians.
- He expects us to learn from the stories.
- They are Scripture and should be treated by us as such - not as a less important group of obscure books.

Further Important Points

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Verse 11

Verse 12

Verse 13

Verse 12

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

- Let's be sure not to fall into the trap of overconfidence, thinking we are stronger than we really are.
- Peter was quite certain he would never deny Jesus, but alas, he was wrong.
- Let's remember our weaknesses and the ease with which temptation can ensnare us.

Further Important Points

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Verse 11

Verse 12

Verse 13

Verse 13

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

From Craig
Blomberg

- The other side of overconfidence is imagining that no one has ever had to face the issues that we do.
- We can talk ourselves into "under-confidence" in our ability to endure temptation by not believing that will help us through our trials.



Craig Blomberg,
Denver Seminary

God won't give us anything we can't handle, so long as we rely on his strength, yielding ourselves to the power of his indwelling Holy Spirit, rather than trying to resist temptation on our own ...

Our culture would rewrite the end of verse 13 so that it said, "But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you don't have to stand up under it any longer," but that of course is the opposite of what God actually inspired Paul to write.

Verse 13

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

From Craig
Blomberg

- The other side of overconfidence is imagining that no one has ever had to face the issues that we do.
- We can talk ourselves into "under-confidence" in our ability to endure temptation by not believing that will help us through our trials.

Further Important Points

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Verse 11

Verse 12

Verse 13



Past Examples 10:1-13

In this section Paul lists **four privileges** the ancient Israelites enjoyed and then **four failures** by those same people.

He then teases out several implications and applications for us.

Privileges and
Failures

Direct
Applications

Further
Important
Points

The Text of 1 Corinthians 10



**Past
Examples
10:1-13**

**Flee Idolatry
10:14-22**

**Do All for
God's Glory
10:23-33**

Flee Idolatry 10:14-22

From previous chapters we remember that the issue of Christians eating the meat from (or even *at*) pagan temples was one of the controversies in the Corinthian church.

- Paul contrasts this with the participation in the Lord's Supper and the sacrifices at the Jewish temple.
- He points out the demonic nature of pagan worship which the Corinthians poorly understood.

**Knowing
When to
Flee**

**1 Cor.
10:19-20**

**Other
Important
Verses**

Knowing When to Flee

- Paul's counsel to "flee idolatry" is more than good advice.
- It's a warning that when temptation is near, our best defense is to run away to escape the present danger.

**1 Corinthians
6:18**

**2 Timothy
2:22**

1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

Knowing When to Flee

- Paul's counsel to "flee idolatry" is more than good advice.
- It's a warning that when temptation is near, our best defense is to run away to escape the present danger.

**1 Corinthians
6:18**

**2 Timothy
2:22**

2 Timothy 2:22

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Knowing When to Flee

- Paul's counsel to "flee idolatry" is more than good advice.
- It's a warning that when temptation is near, our best defense is to run away to escape the present danger.

**1 Corinthians
6:18**

**2 Timothy
2:22**

Flee Idolatry 10:14-22

From previous chapters we remember that the issue of Christians eating the meat from (or even *at*) pagan temples was one of the controversies in the Corinthian church.

- Paul contrasts this with the participation in the Lord's Supper and the sacrifices at the Jewish temple.
- He points out the demonic nature of pagan worship which the Corinthians poorly understood.

**Knowing
When to
Flee**

**1 Cor.
10:19-20**

**Other
Important
Verses**

1 Corinthians 10:19-20

Side Bar on
Spiritual
Realities

19 What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

- Our worldview is very much influenced by a secular, anti-supernatural bias.
- We do not like discussions of demons - angels maybe are OK - but not demonic beings.
- Paul knew better and warned this church accordingly.

Side Bar on Spiritual Realities

Typical Western Mindset

- God (Distant if he even exists)
[A Big Gap Filled with Nothing - maybe angels or aliens]
- Earth (Knowable mainly through science and our five senses.)

A More Biblical Mindset

- God (from whom we are cut off only by our sin)
- Angels and demons who have access to our world.
- Earth (Good but fallen and therefore corrupt in many ways.)

1 Corinthians 10:19-20

Side Bar on
Spiritual
Realities

19 What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

- Our worldview is very much influenced by a secular, anti-supernatural bias.
- We do not like discussions of demons - angels maybe are OK - but not demonic beings.
- Paul knew better and warned this church accordingly.

Flee Idolatry 10:14-22

From previous chapters we remember that the issue of Christians eating the meat from (or even *at*) pagan temples was one of the controversies in the Corinthian church.

- Paul contrasts this with the participation in the Lord's Supper and the sacrifices at the Jewish temple.
- He points out the demonic nature of pagan worship which the Corinthians poorly understood.

**Knowing
When to
Flee**

**1 Cor.
10:19-20**

**Other
Important
Verses**

Other Important Verses

1 Peter 5:8-9 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

James 4:7-8 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Flee Idolatry 10:14-22

From previous chapters we remember that the issue of Christians eating the meat from (or even *at*) pagan temples was one of the controversies in the Corinthian church.

- Paul contrasts this with the participation in the Lord's Supper and the sacrifices at the Jewish temple.
- He points out the demonic nature of pagan worship which the Corinthians poorly understood.

**Knowing
When to
Flee**

**1 Cor.
10:19-20**

**Other
Important
Verses**

The Text of 1 Corinthians 10



**Past
Examples
10:1-13**

**Flee Idolatry
10:14-22**

**Do All for
God's Glory
10:23-33**



Do All for God's Glory 10:23-33

Thoughts on
Application

- As Paul has said earlier in this letter, we should make it a point to defer to the weaker brother or sister.
- By this he does not mean the self-righteous legalist, but rather the newer or less informed believer.
- We need to constantly be on guard lest our freedoms somehow cause the weaker Christian to stumble into sin.

1 Corinthians
10:31-33

Thoughts on Application

- Paul, in this passage, clearly assumes that the Christians in Corinth would find themselves enjoying meals with unbelievers.
- His was not a segregated, standoffish faith.
- The reputation Christians have for being judgmental, joy-killing bores is sometimes well deserved.
- Yet genuine holiness - if it is going to impact the people around us - must be seen in our everyday interactions with the world.



Do All for God's Glory 10:23-33

Thoughts on
Application

- As Paul has said earlier in this letter, we should make it a point to defer to the weaker brother or sister.
- By this he does not mean the self-righteous legalist, but rather the newer or less informed believer.
- We need to constantly be on guard lest our freedoms somehow cause the weaker Christian to stumble into sin.

1 Corinthians
10:31-33

1 Corinthians 10:31-33

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

- Our freedom is less important than the our neighbor's good, whether a fellow Christian, a Jewish person or someone of some other religious or non-religious view.
- All that we do should be done with the goal of framing the gospel uncompromisingly, yet always in the best cultural light.



Do All for God's Glory 10:23-33

Thoughts on
Application

- As Paul has said earlier in this letter, we should make it a point to defer to the weaker brother or sister.
- By this he does not mean the self-righteous legalist, but rather the newer or less informed believer.
- We need to constantly be on guard lest our freedoms somehow cause the weaker Christian to stumble into sin.

1 Corinthians
10:31-33

The Text of 1 Corinthians 10



**Past
Examples
10:1-13**

**Flee Idolatry
10:14-22**

**Do All for
God's Glory
10:23-33**

1 Corinthians 10

Letter to a Problematic Church



Introduction

The Text of
1 Corinthians 10

Conclusions

Conclusions



- Reference Page for 1 Corinthians
- Hertzberg, Craig L., 1 Corinthians (The NIV Application Commentary Book 7) (Zondervan Academic, Waco Edition).
 - Carver, D. A. (2004). *The Cross and Christian Ministry: Leadership Lessons from 1 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
 - Corinth Athens Map: <https://citydatafor.com/1-corinthians-pauls-second-missionary-journey-corinth-athens-map/>
 - Evans, Tony (2008). *Things You Can Count On*. Chicago: Moody Publishers.
 - Map of Eastern Mediterranean: <https://www.google.com/maps/@37.91493,26.89444,15z>
 - Photos of Ancient Corinth: <http://tourism.gr/en/visiting/1789/visiting-ancient-corinth>
 - <https://www.athensinfo.gr/2018/08/08/ancient-corinth-athens/>
 - <https://www.ancientgreece.com/articles/corinth/>
 - Prior, E. (1988). *The message of 1 Corinthians: life in the local church*. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

From
Warren
Wiersbe

From Tony
Evans

From David
Prior

Key Verses

A Final
Prayer



Warren Wiersbe
Bible Teacher and
Commentator

There are dangers to maturity as well as to immaturity, and one of them is overconfidence. When we think we are strong, we discover that we are weak. The strong believer who eats in the temple may find himself struggling with an enemy who is too strong for him.

Conclusions



**From
Warren
Wiersbe**

**From Tony
Evans**

**From David
Prior**

Key Verses

A Final Prayer

- Reference Page for 1st Class**
- **Henderson, Craig L.** *Covenantalism (the NIV Application Commentary Book #7)*. Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.
 - **Carson, D. L.** (2006). *The Cross and Christendom Mission: Leadership Lessons from 1 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
 - **Corinth Athletes**, <http://victordale.com/1-corinthians-gauls-second-missionary-journey-according-to-the-scripture-map/>
 - **Evens, Tony**(2008). *Thessaly You Can Count On*. Chicago: Moody Publishers.
 - **Map of Ancient Mediterranean:** <https://www.britannica.com/web/hw-91WYFZ>
 - **Phoenice of Ancient Carthage:** <http://buff.ly/sha/carthago> (<http://brittanica.com/web/hw-91WYFZ#ref=link-line-item-1>)
 - **What was the name of the city?** <http://www.ancient.eu/article/?article=44524>
 - **How did the Phoenicians reach North Africa?** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12010903>
 - **Phoenicia Carthage from Athens:** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoenicia#/media/File:Phoenicia-Carthage-from-Athens.jpg>
 - **Prior, D.** (1986). *The Message of 1 Corinthians: His in the local church*. Leicester, England: Downside Press, St. Ignatius Press.

Don't forget that Satan is a frustrated ruler. He tried to displace God from the throne of the universe, and he has been out to build his own kingdom ever since. The method he uses is one of seeking to dominate individuals, institutions, and ultimately entire nations. The demons are his primary henchmen.

-- from *Theology You Can Count On*



Tony Evans, Bible Teacher
and Commentator

Conclusions



- Reference Page for 1 Corinthians
- Hertzberg, Craig L., 1 Corinthians (The NIV Application Commentary Book 7) (Zondervan Academic, Trade Edition).
 - Carver, D. A. (2004). *The Cross and Christian Ministry: Leadership Lessons from 1 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
 - Corinth Athens Map: <https://citydatafor.com/1-corinthians-pauls-second-missionary-journey-corinth-athens-map/>
 - Evans, Tony (2008). *Things You Can Count On*. Chicago: Moody Publishers.
 - Map of Eastern Mediterranean: <https://www.google.com/maps/@37.91493,26.89444,15z>
 - Photos of Ancient Corinth: <http://touristinfo.com/visit/1589/ancient-corinth.html>
 - <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/USNews/article-1454481/1589-ancient-corinth.html>
 - <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/USNews/article-1454481/1589-ancient-corinth.html>
 - Prior, E. (1988). *The message of 1 Corinthians: life in the local church*. Leicester, England: Epworth Press, St. Ignace Press.

From
Warren
Wiersbe

From Tony
Evans

From David
Prior

Key Verses

A Final
Prayer

We find Christian freedom in its true creativity when we follow Paul's ... ground-rules for life together in Christ. They really need no more than stating, contemplating and obeying.

- i. 'Do all to the glory of God' (31)–not to establish my freedom.
- ii. 'Try to please all men in everything' (33)–not claiming my rights.
- iii. 'Seek the advantages of many' (33)–not my benefit or fulfilment.
- iv. 'Seek that many may be saved' (33)



David Prior,
Bible Teacher
in London

Conclusions



- Reference Page for 1 Corinthians
- Hertzberg, Craig L., 1 Corinthians (The NIV Application Commentary Book 7) (Zondervan Academic, Waco Edition).
 - Carver, D. A. (2004). *The Cross and Christian Ministry: Leadership Lessons from 1 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
 - Corinth Athens Map: <https://citydatafor.com/1-corinthians-gaia-second-missionary-journey-corinth-athens-map/>
 - Evans, Tony (2008). *Things You Can Count On*. Chicago: Moody Publishers.
 - Map of Eastern Mediterranean: <https://www.google.com/maps/@37.91493,29.71493,6z>
 - Photos of Ancient Corinth: <http://tourism.gov.gr/en/17890/ancient-corinth.html>
 - <https://www.athensinfo.com/Corinth/Corinth.htm>
 - <https://www.athensinfo.com/Corinth/Corinth.htm>
 - Prior, E. (1988). *The message of 1 Corinthians: life in the local church*. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

From
Warren
Wiersbe

From Tony
Evans

From David
Prior

Key Verses

A Final
Prayer



Key Verses

Let's reread all of those verses from this chapter that contain important points for us.

**1 Corinthians
10:11-13**

**1 Corinthians
10:31-33**

**1 Corinthians
10:14, 19-20**

1 Corinthians 10:11-13

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.



Key Verses

Let's reread all of those verses from this chapter that contain important points for us.

**1 Corinthians
10:11-13**

**1 Corinthians
10:31-33**

**1 Corinthians
10:14, 19-20**

1 Corinthians 10:14, 19-20

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry ...

19 What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

20 No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.



Key Verses

Let's reread all of those verses from this chapter that contain important points for us.

**1 Corinthians
10:11-13**

**1 Corinthians
10:31-33**

**1 Corinthians
10:14, 19-20**

1 Corinthians 10:31-33

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.



Key Verses

Let's reread all of those verses from this chapter that contain important points for us.

**1 Corinthians
10:11-13**

**1 Corinthians
10:31-33**

**1 Corinthians
10:14, 19-20**

Conclusions



- Reference Page for 1 Corinthians
- Hertzberg, Craig L., 1 Corinthians (The NIV Application Commentary Book 7) (Zondervan Academic, Waco Edition).
 - Carver, D. A. (2004). *The Cross and Christian Ministry: Leadership Lessons from 1 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
 - Corinth Athens Map: <https://citydatafor.com/1-corinthians/ga/s-second-missionary-journey-corinth-athens-map/>
 - Evans, Tony (2008). *Things You Can Count On*. Chicago: Moody Publishers.
 - Map of Eastern Mediterranean: <https://www.google.com/maps/@37.91493,26.89444,15z>
 - Photos of Ancient Corinth: <http://tourism.gov.gr/en/17890/ancient-corinth.html>
 - <https://www.athensinfo.gr/2018/08/08/ancient-corinth-14248>
 - <https://www.greekreporter.com/2018/07/28/17th-century-painting-of-athenss-cathedral-ancient-corinth-from-athens/>
 - Prior, E. (1988). *The message of 1 Corinthians: life in the local church*. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

From
Warren
Wiersbe

From Tony
Evans

From David
Prior

Key Verses

A Final
Prayer



A Final Prayer

- Dear Father in heaven,
- Thank you for the many examples we have written in your word, especially in those Old Testament stories from which we can learn so much about you.
- Make us aware when our own sinful tendencies cause us to put down our defenses against the whole demonic realm.
- Help us to flee, not fall into, temptation. This world entices us and without you we know we are not safe.
- Finally, teach us to put the good of others first, to seek the good of the many, so that more may be saved.
- In Christ our Lord, Amen.

Conclusions



- Reference Page for 1 Corinthians
- Hiebert, Craig L., 1 Corinthians (The NIV Application Commentary Book 7) (Zondervan Academic, Waco Edition).
 - Carver, D. A. (2004). The Cross and Christian Ministry: Leadership Lessons from 1 Corinthians. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
 - Corinth Athens Map: <https://citydatafor.com/1-corinthians-pauls-second-missionary-journey-corinth-athens-map/>
 - Evans, Tony (2008). Things You Can Count On. Chicago: Moody Publishers.
 - Map of Eastern Mediterranean: <https://www.google.com/maps/@37.91493,29.71493,6z>
 - Photos of Ancient Corinth: <http://tourism.gov.gr/en/17890/ancient-corinth.html>
 - <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3b3333>
 - <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3b3333>
 - Prior, E. (1988). The message of 1 Corinthians: life in the local church. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

From
Warren
Wiersbe

From Tony
Evans

From David
Prior

Key Verses

A Final
Prayer

1 Corinthians 10

Letter to a Problematic Church



Introduction

The Text of
1 Corinthians 10

Conclusions

1 Corinthians

Verse by Verse



**Letter to a
Problematic
Church**

