



### Community Group Study Guide Week of July 7, 2019

In chapter 8, Paul began his response to the Corinthians regarding their questions about eating meat that was knowingly offered to idols. He put the question to rest in chapter 8 by suggesting that the Corinthians refrain from consuming such meat for the sake of the conscience of “weaker” Christian brothers and sisters who could stumble by seeing or partaking in such activity. In chapter 9, Paul gives examples of how he himself foregoes privileges for the sake of his weak Christian siblings and potential converts, and motivated the Corinthians to be as thoughtful and intentional for others. In 10:1-14, Paul again takes up the matter of eating meat offered to idols and gives a much stronger instruction. Those who think that they are “strong,” and immune to the effects of idolatry “should take heed lest they fall.” Building off of his instruction in 9:24-27, he directs that if a Christian is disciplined and intentional in his walk he will not toy around with idolatry, knowing that it could lead to his demise.

To drive home his message to the Corinthians, Paul points out four forms of sin that led to the downfall of almost all of the people who left Egypt at the Exodus with Moses, idolatry, sexual immorality, putting Christ to the test, and grumbling. Of important note, as pointed out in verse 14 and as alluded to in the context of the passage, the root of all four of these sins is idolatry, trust in a (literal or wooden) idol, feeling, experience, fantasy, etc., to fill a void for peace, joy, love, hope, security, and purpose that only a peaceful relationship with God can provide. Paired with each sin that is mentioned, Paul gives an Old Testament reference for when the Israelites committed each sin. The Old Testament references are not provided to show how each form of sin was a form of idolatry, but to show that participation in that sin drew the wrath of God against the participants. Paul is blatantly clear that what happened to the Israelites, who were too confident with regards to interactions with idols, could happen to the Corinthians and Christians today if they are not careful.

Though a really heavy and scary message, Paul does not leave the Corinthians without hope. He incorporates language of baptism, spiritual food and drink in verses 1-4 to remind the Corinthians of their own baptism and partaking in the Lord’s Supper. In doing this Paul wants the Corinthians to remember who they are through their faith in Jesus Christ. He wants them to remember that though they likely have not seen a sea split or a giant pillar cloud in the desert, it was God who called and miraculously delivered them out of the slavery of their sin to live a life of freedom with Him. It is Jesus Christ, the rock, who sustains them and fellowships with them today and who will do so in the future regardless of what seasons they face. These facts should give God’s people a healthy balance of humility and confidence in facing the trials and tests that God ordains in the future and in navigating difficult scenarios in a broken world.

Knowing that his message in verses 1-10 would incite questions about God’s goodness and ability to deliver the Corinthians through wilderness-like periods, Paul puts their questions to rest by calling upon the faithfulness of God in verses 12 and 13. Paul assures the Corinthians that any test that the Corinthians face and, therefore, any tests that we face are not greater than those common to all men, are not beyond our ability to handle, are not impossible to escape, and are not impossible to endure. This promise is based on God’s faithful, loving, holy, good, almighty and perfect character. In seasons and positions of strength and weakness the Christian should find comfort that they have God, that He is involved and in charge of what is happening, and that He will be faithful to His word. Regardless of life’s consequences, God is good, which he ultimately showed by coming as Jesus Christ to bear the wrath of man’s sin.

### DISCUSSION GOALS

#### Head

To understand that even in the New Testament age it is still dangerous to place oneself in a position to be influenced by idolatry.

#### Heart

To embrace your full freedom from the bondage of sin and idolatry through your identity in Jesus Christ and find solace in God’s faithfulness.

#### Hands

To refrain from idolatry, sexual immorality, putting Christ to the test, and grumbling

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Membership or Baptism:

Contact  
[admin@mosaicboston.com](mailto:admin@mosaicboston.com) to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

#### Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact  
[andy@mosaicboston.com](mailto:andy@mosaicboston.com).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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### **Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14**

- The verse that captures the main thrust of verses 1-14 is verse 12. How is Paul saying that the Corinthians should act with regards to idols?
- Though very few people come in contact with temple idolatry in our society like the Corinthians did, idolatry is still prevalent. What is idolatry? What are some idols that you have worshipped or are worshipping?
- The passage grouped sexual immorality, putting Christ to the test, and grumbling as forms of idolatry. How are these sins considered forms of idolatry?
- Can you glean any instruction from this passage in order to counter one's desire to worship an idol or one's overconfidence in interacting with them? (Hint: See verses 1-4. Think of the first point of the sermon.)
- Can you recall a time when you were under the influence of an idol? What was that experience like? How did Christ deliver you?
- Do you have a problem with grumbling? What do you grumble about? How does God punish grumbling in the passage?
- What is putting Christ to the test? How are ways that people put Christ to the test in our society?
- Are you in the wilderness? Are you struggling to be patient with God? Are you struggling to see your salvation as a blessing? How does verse 13 offer comfort to you?
- What is God's faithfulness? How does that offer us comfort in the wilderness? How have you leaned on it in your life?