

Warning Against Idolatry

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:5-22. Why must we
flee from idolatry?**

MOVE THROUGH THE TEXTS IN THE BIBLE, ESPECIALLY
14-22 AND EXPLAIN SOLOMON MADE THIS MISTAKE IN
THE WORSHIP OF IDOLS TO TRY TO WIN PEOPLE TO
GOD.

WHEN WE USE THE IDOLS OF THE WORLD (THEIR MUSIC,
FOOD CHOICES ETC), AS A MEANS TO WIN PEOPLE TO
GOD, WE FALL JUST AS SOLOMON AND ANCIENT ISRAEL
DID UNDER AARON WHEN HE MADE AN IDOL TO TRY TO
REPRESENT GOD.

In 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, Paul resumes the
issue of food offered to idols. Offering food to
idols may be strange in many cultures today, but
it was common in biblical times. When animals
were sacrificed to the gods in the heathen

temples, part of the animal was given to the
officiating priests, who sold the meat. Some of
this meat found its way into the public markets.
Because this meat was not kept separate from
other meat that was also offered for sale in the
market, a Christian might unknowingly purchase
meat that had been offered to idols. The counsel
of the apostle is: such meat may be freely
purchased by Christians.

Nevertheless, while meat previously
sacrificed in a temple could be eaten by
Christians at home (1 Cor. 8:1-13), the practice
of going into pagan temples and participating in
their festivals was clearly forbidden for
Christians. The criterion is clear: Christians
are allowed to eat that meat at home because the
idols are nothing (1 Cor. 8:4); however,
Christians must not participate in pagan
ceremonies because this corresponds to
worshiping demons (1 Cor. 10:20, 21). Taking

part in pagan rituals equals having communion with demons (1 Cor. 10:20), just as taking part in the Lord's Supper equals having communion with Christ (1 Cor. 10:16).

Thus, Paul says, "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons" (1 Cor. 10:21, NKJV). As Jesus said: "No one can serve two masters" (Matt. 6:24, NKJV).

Paul teaches that God requires wholehearted loyalty. He implies that idolatry provokes "the Lord to jealousy"

(1 Cor. 10:22, NKJV). For that not to happen, Paul, in 1 Corinthians 8:4-6, provides an infallible rule against idolatry, by alluding to Deuteronomy 6:4, 5, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deut. 6:4, 5, NKJV; emphasis supplied). To this idea of loving

God above all things in Deuteronomy 6:5, Jesus
added, " ' "You shall love your neighbor as
yourself" ' " (Mark 12:31, NKJV; see also Lev.
19:18).

An idol doesn't have to be a stone statue.
We can make an idol out of just about anything.
What idols, if any, do you need to flee from in
your own life?

NO LESSON 6