

“Facing Temptation”
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
6/13/21
Message 19

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Facing Temptation”
- **We are finishing up a 3 Chapter Discussion - The topic of Christian Liberty**
 - **Now when I mention liberty...**
 - We might think of freedoms like American freedoms
 - It was Patrick Henry who said, “Give me liberty, or give me death.”
 - **The Apostle Paul would have said - Right on Patrick!**
 - But the Apostle Paul would have added
 - Give Me Liberty but make sure it does not Lead to DEATH
 - No we are Not talking American Freedom
 - We are Talking Our Liberty in Christ
 - Paul would want to make sure that his Christian Liberty did not lead to DEATH
 - DEATH - Of a weaker Believer
 - Or DEATH to Spiritual Growth

• **Review**

- **1st Chapter 8**
 - Now Remember – What started this Conversation...

- **Paul was answering their question about meat offered to idols**

- TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT
- THAT WAS THE QUESTION

- **The Corinthians were divided into 2 groups on this issue**

- Those who were strong & mature –
- Saw it as NO PROBLEM. Idols are nothing
- But the weak & immature
 - Had a problem with it

- **2nd PAUL'S SOLUTION?**

- **In Chapter 8**

- The mature brothers / sisters needed to show love & sensitivity to the weaker immature brothers
- Making sure they gave them no cause to stumble.
- If need be forfeit their liberty for the sake of their – brother / or sister.
- They needed to be willing to give up their liberty
- Paul said
 - If food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

- **In Chapter 9**

- Paul uses himself as it relates to his Provision & Support in ministry

- That as a minister he had the right & the liberty to be supported financially
- Paul explains that he forfeited that right, that liberty because he didn't want anyone to stumble
- So in Chapter 9 Paul uses himself as a good example of one who was rightly handling his liberty
- In Fact he was so serious about it that he wrote...

1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (NKJV)

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

- Now Last week I wanted to encourage us in our race
- But in doing so I don't want to take away the Importance of the statement made by Paul
- Look at Verse 27 again

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NKJV)

27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

- CRITICAL we Understand what Paul is saying here
 - He is Not saying we can lose our salvation
 - Paul's concern was...
 - If he fails to discipline himself and keep himself spiritually and morally fit for ministry, he could end up being disqualified for ministry.

- In other words, his ministry might be removed from him and he would lose his opportunity to serve God
 - He didn't want laziness or self-indulgence to get in the way of his usefulness to God, so he disciplined himself for the race.
- Listen to What Ray Stedman said in regards to this
 - *Ray Stedman; "Let's shed this satanic delusion that we live in a beautiful, pleasant world designed for our enjoyment. We are soldiers on a battlefield, facing a deadly barrage of temptation. We are athletes in a race, competing to win a prize. Our opponents are ruthless and clever, and their strategies are subtle. We are not guaranteed success. We can fall. We can be disqualified. We can lose the race and fail to win the prize."*
 - Stedman - Three stages in the lives of Christians who allow themselves to be disqualified for service to God.
 - Stage 1 - God turns off the Power of one's ministry
 - People once used by the Lord in a Mighty Way now the Power is gone from the Ministry
 - Stage 2 - God Stops the Performance.
 - First the Power Departs, then the Performance.
 - God takes us out of action and puts us on the sidelines
 - Seen Many Christians Sideline because of SIN
 - Stage 3 - God calls the Individual Home.

- The first two stages are chastening stages in which God tries to get the individual's attention.
- But if a person continually ignores God's chastening, there may well come a time when God will say, "Come on home. You refuse to discipline yourself. I cannot trust you on earth any longer."
- When we reach stage 3, we do not lose our salvation, but we do lose our opportunity to serve God—and our lives are wasted.

• ***NOW here in Chapter 10 he uses the nation of Israel as an Example***

○ **1st Israel is an Example**

- In bondage for 400 years in Egypt
- Who were Saved – Freed from Egypt
- But NEVER entered the Promise Land = Victorious Christian Living
- Why Because they failed to disciplined themselves
- Tragically they blew it & became disqualified from entering into the Land of Promise because of their own Stupidity & Sin

○ **2nd The Lesson we must learn Today**

- **Paul is SAYING – Let Israel be a lesson to YOU**
 - You want to keep holding onto your "Liberties"
 - At the Expense of Hurting People... including your self
 - Well you may NEVER make the Promise Land = Victorious Christian Living
 - You will always being Eating Alpo when I have Rib Eye Stake for you

- **We have been set free from the bondage that we were in**
 - But tragically some believers today –
 - Don't experience the blessings of this abundant life for the same reason!
 - *Mike Warren; "Some Christian are satisfied in "Name Only" – They want His Name (Salvation) but they don't want His Character"*
- God has SO much more for us – My Prayer is that we would not settle

• **Paul is going to Encourage and Exhort the Corinthians and US in 3 Powerful Points this morning**

- Remember The Failures Of Israel vs. 1-11
- Recognize The Fact Of Temptation vs. 12-13a
- Rely On The Faithfulness Of God v. 13b

Remember The Failures Of Israel vs. 1-11

• **First: Their Privileges vs. 1-4**

- **1st All Our Fathers v. 1a**

1 Corinthians 10:1 (NKJV)

1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,

▪ **Connection**

- The congregation at Corinth was mostly made up of Gentiles
 - But they must have had a Good understanding on the Old Testament.
- Paul refers to them as "fathers" which can mean ancestors

- They are like our spiritual ancestors in the sense that we see in them how God deals with those He loves
- And though they had lots of privileges...it didn't keep them from sin and failure
- **2nd Our fathers Passed through the cloud vs. 1b-2**

1 Corinthians 10:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

▪ **The Cloud**

- The Shekinah glory overshadowed Israel throughout their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land.
- During the day, the cloud sheltered them from the brutal desert sun, and during the night, it burned as a pillar of fire.
- It was a constant, ready reminder of God's glory and presence (Exodus 13:21-22)

▪ **The Sea**

- When they came to the Red Sea the Lord parted the waters and they passed through on dry ground
- All Israel came through the Red Sea and saw God's incredible power in holding up the walls of the sea so they could cross over on dry ground.
- Then they saw God send the water back to drown the Egyptian army (Exodus 14:21-31).

▪ **All passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses:**

- This was not only an amazing demonstration of
 - God's love and power

- But also a picture of baptism –
- He meant that they all identified with Moses as their deliverer and leader by passing through the waters
- A means of Being SAVED
- **3rd Super Naturally sustained vs. 3-4**

1 Corinthians 10:3–4 (NKJV)

3 all ate the same spiritual food,

4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

- The Israelites were sustained by
 - “Spiritual Food” and “Spiritual Drink” meaning it was supernaturally
- Manna
 - Came down to them from Heaven
 - Jesus is the Bread of Life
- Water
 - Was provided from a rock
 - Paul said “that Rock was Christ”
- **4th The Illustration**
 - OT is filled with all kinds of types, analogies and metaphors from which we can glean spiritual truth
 - Moses delivered the Israelites from bondage to Egypt.
 - Jesus delivers us from bondage to sin.
 - The Israelites were “baptized into Moses”
 - A Christian is baptized into Jesus Christ.

- The Israelites ate and drank spiritual food
 - So do Christians!
 - God's Word is our food and His Spirit our living water
- In other words, we can look to the Israelites as an example to us.
 - They were a freed people who enjoyed tremendous privileges
 - How did they handle their freedom?
 - SADLY - They indulged themselves

• **Second: Their Problems vs. 5-10**

○ **1st Verse 5**

1 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)

5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

▪ **The word "MOST" in verse 5**

- Is a huge understatement
- All of them who left Egypt who were over the age of 20 died in the wilderness...
- Except Two - Joshua and Caleb

○ **2nd Now these things became our examples v. 6a**

1 Corinthians 10:6 (NKJV)

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

- All this happened to them not just as historical events but as Practical illustrations for us

- It's personal application so that we learn from their mistakes & avoid the things that they didn't
- This is a Picture of Christians who have been saved YET keep living with ONE foot in the World

○ **3rd Let's look at least 5 problems they had that we MUST to Avoid:**

○ **1st Lust v. 6b**

- The first Thing we are to avoid & watch out for is that of LUST

1 Corinthians 10:6b (NKJV)

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

- **Verse 6 Can be Trace back to Numbers 11**

- Craving for the pleasures of Egypt, summarized in their lamenting cry

- "Give us meat to eat!"

Numbers 11:4 (NKJV)

4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat?"

Numbers 11:13 (NKJV)

13 Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.'

- **They were complaining about their food –**

- Tired of Manna = "What is It"
 - Manna hot cakes
 - Bamana bread
 - Manna Cotti
 - Give us meat they cried

- **The manna was supernaturally sent Everyday –**
 - It was God's Faithful provision
 - Yet it was NOT enough for them!!!
 - They Became ungrateful
 - Wanted More
 - Lusted after more
- **God said OK I will give them meat!!!**
 - Here is what happened
 - The people looked & saw a cloud off in the distance
 - Not a normal cloud
 - A Cloud of Quail flying 2 cubits or about 3 ft
 - Millions of them
 - The least a single man gathered was 10 homers
 - 10 homers would have been the equivalent of 200 family-size buckets of Kentucky Fried Chicken
 - They ate so much the word says they had Quail coming out of their noses!
 - Check this out the Psalmist recounting this story said

Psalm 106:14–15 (NKJV)

14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert.

15 And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.

- It's a heavy statement & vivid illustration of what lust does...it doesn't satisfy and it destroys

▪ **Lesson**

- Do you ever feel like that...really unsatisfied with
 - Where the Lord has you
 - How he is providing for you?
- THIS is Dangerous place to be
 - Wanting something else or someone else (not satisfied with where the Lord has us)
 - That's the nature of lust, always wanting something else
 - Lust is like a fire ...the more you feed it the hotter it gets & the more it demands - Never satisfied
- **REST in the LORD – Right where He has YOU**
 - Yes - Even after the car cuts you off...
- **2nd Idolatry v. 7**

1 Corinthians 10:7 (NKJV)

7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

▪ **The Reference is to Exodus 32...**

- Moses is with the Lord getting the 10 Commandments
 - Been gone 40 days
 - The people down below were wondering about their Pastor
 - Why gone so long
 - What is he doing up there?

- So they turned to Aaron (You become our Leader)
 - They gave Aaron their gold & made a golden calf
 - He made a Golden Calf
 - They began to Worship the Calf as if it were God
 - Gave the Calf Credit for their Freedom
 - Very Clear they had been in Egypt (World) so long – they thought nothing of this

- **Paul saying; “The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play”**
 - He was Quoting Exodus 32:6
 - The eating and drinking refers to the excessive feasting that followed the sacrifices
 - Play is a euphemism for sexual relations
 - They weren’t playing tag - they were engaging in sexual immorality

- **Moses reaction What are you doing?**
 - Moses was Angry – Broke the Tablets with the commandment
 - Confronted Aaron
 - Top lame excuse from Aaron I put the gold in the fire and this golden calf came out

- **Lesson**
 - Now some of the believers in Corinth had also reverted to their old ways of worship

- Idols represent false gods, gods who are really demons
- Paul warns later in chapter 10 that
 - “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons”
 - The right God can only be worshiped in the right way
- When Christians worship anyone or anything besides God, that’s idolatry
 - Worshiping the
 - Virgin Mary, saints, icons, or angels is idolatry
 - All idols, of course, are not physical
 - It could be Worldly philosophies
 - That have come into the church
- **3rd Immorality v. 8**

1 Corinthians 10:8 (NKJV)

8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

▪ **The Reference here is to Numbers 25**

- To the time when the sons of Israel intermarried with the daughters of Moab
- Seduced by Balaam the prophet, they disobeyed the word of the Lord and fell into immorality
- Balaam was hired to curse Israel But could NOT – Came up with the idea of tempting them into sin

▪ **Numbers 25:8**

- 24,000 died because of their sin!
 - Now this has caused some controversy!
- Paul says 23,000 in one day while Numbers 25 - 24,000 died
 - Really simple - plague - 23,000 died in one day
 - Some died next day or shortly thereafter...for a total of 24,000

▪ **Lesson**

- Avoid Sexual Immorality
- 4th Testing The Lord v. 9

1 Corinthians 10:9 (NKJV)

9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

▪ **Refers to Numbers 21**

- Complaining about food and water
- They were saying it was **better BACK in Egypt, back in the world**
 - But their view was distorted...they were slaves

▪ **So the Lord sent serpents to bite them**

Numbers 21:5–6 (NKJV)

5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."

6 So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

- Moses Interceded for the People

- Bronze Serpent on a Pole – Look at it and be healed

▪ Lesson

- Same today – Christians test the Lord by trying to live with one foot in both worlds!
- They look back and think the world wasn't so bad... I want both...the world and the Lord
- Understand your flesh will prevail - why?
- Spirit will not force you to submit

○ 5th Complaining v. 10

1 Corinthians 10:10 (NKJV)

10 *nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.*

▪ A reference to Number 16

- The sin of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram
- Again there was complaining against the Lord because of the food situation and against God Leaders

Numbers 16:1–2 (NKJV)

1 *Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men;*
2 *and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown.*

▪ Lesson

- Complaining is dissatisfaction with God's sovereign will for our lives and the lives of others
- It is a sin that He doesn't take lightly even in view of His grace!

- It's been said –
 - Complaining is language of hell...
 - Because that is all they will do there
 - Thanksgiving and praise is the language of heaven
- When People are complaining
 - Why isn't this happening or why isn't that happening?
 - They are challenging...
 - His Wisdom
 - His Grace
 - His Goodness
 - His Love
 - His Righteousness
- SO 5 THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR - IN EXERCISING LIBERTY
 - Lust
 - Idolatry
 - Sexual Immorality
 - Testing Christ
 - Complaining

• **Third: The Purpose Of The Lord v. 11**

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV)

11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

- **1st As Examples**
 - Sure you've heard it said, "Experience is the best teacher!"
 - But it doesn't always have to be your own experience...
 - Why keep slamming your head against the wall, when you can learn from other people's mistakes!

- This is why Paul gives this history lesson...
 - He wants to save the Corinthians a bruise on the noggin

Recognize The Fact Of Temptation vs. 12-13a

• First: It Admonishes Us Not To Trust Ourselves v. 12

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)

12 *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*

○ **1st This is a warning against Spiritual Pride**

- The “mature believer” who thinks,
 - “I don’t need to worry about that sin”
 - “That will never happen to me...I wouldn’t fall in that area”
 - Better Beware
- That’s what Peter said before denying Jesus I won’t fall
 - The steps that led to Peter’s denial:
 - Overconfidence
 - Prayerlessness
 - Following far off
 - Wrong Company

○ **2nd Stay Humble – Stay Focused**

Proverbs 16:18 (NKJV)

18 *Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.*

• Second: It Affects All Believers v. 13a

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

13 *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but*

with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

○ **1st No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man:**

- **We often want to excuse our particular tempting circumstances as**
 - “Very unique” and a “Special exception,”
 - But God reminds us that our temptation is not unique.
- **Or We let the Enemy Whisper in Our Ear that**
 - That NO sins like you
 - That Your Sin is SO BAD God could never forgive
 - Turn Off that Voice 😊
 - It ALL Common

Rely On The Faithfulness Of God v. 13b

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

13 *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

• First: His Protection “Who will not allow you to be tempted...”

- **1st No believer can claim that**
 - He was overwhelmed by temptation
 - Or that “the devil made me do it”
 - No one, not even Satan, can make us sin
- **2nd No temptation is stronger than our spiritual resources**

- People sin because they willingly sin

- **Second: His Provision “make a way of escape...”**

- **1st God Always Makes a way to Escape**

- He sees us through it by making us able to endure it
- God puts His strength in us and uses the temptation to make us strong and teaches us to depend totally upon Him!

Closing

- Let's Look at 1 Cor 9:24-27

1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (NKJV)

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

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