

## **Bible Study Group Notes**

### 1 Corinthians 10.1–22

#### **THE BIG PICTURE**

We are continuing our series, *God's guidance for life's decisions*, from 1 Corinthians 8-10. So far we have asked: *Will this wound another Christian?* and *Will this help or hinder the gospel?* This week the question becomes more searching: *Will this strengthen or weaken my soul?*

Paul warns the Corinthians not to be overconfident. Spiritual privilege is a gift, but it is not a guarantee of spiritual safety. In grey-area decisions, we must ask not only, "Is this technically allowed?" but, "What is this doing to my desires, my conscience, my worship, and my love for Christ?"

#### **INVESTIGATE**

***Do not confuse privilege with safety*** – read 1 Corinthians 10.1-5.

1. What repeated word do you notice in 10.1-4, and what does it emphasise about Israel's privileges?
2. What does 10.4 teach us about Christ's involvement with His people in the wilderness?
3. What is shocking about 10.5?
4. How might these verses warn someone who has been around Christian things for a long time?

***Do not underestimate what desire can do*** – read 1 Corinthians 10.6-11.

5. According to 10.6, why were these things written down for us?
6. What sins does Paul highlight in 10.7-10?
7. What do these examples teach us about the way desire can become disordered?
8. How might idolatry show itself today without looking obviously "religious"?

**Do not negotiate with idols; flee to Christ** – read 1 Corinthians 10.12-22.

9. What warning does Paul give in 10.12, and who most needs to hear it?
  
10. What encouragement does 10.13 give to those facing temptation?
  
11. What does it mean, practically, to “flee from idolatry” in 10.14?
  
12. How does Paul use the Lord’s Supper in 10.16-17 to show that we belong to Christ and to one another?
  
13. Why does Paul say “you cannot” share both the Lord’s table and the table of demons in 10.21?

#### **REFLECT & APPLY**

14. Think of a current habit, relationship, form of entertainment, online pattern, ambition, resentment, or use of money. What is it doing to your soul?
  
15. Is there anything you keep calling “freedom” that may actually be weakening your love for Christ?
  
16. Where might you be tempted to say, “I can handle this”? What ordinary “way of escape” might God already be providing?
  
17. What would it look like this week to flee from idolatry and run to Christ?

#### **PRAY**

- Thank God that His warnings are gracious and His faithfulness is sure.
- Ask Him to expose anything that is weakening your soul or normalising sin.
- Pray for courage to flee temptation, honesty to confess sin, and fresh love for Christ, the true Rock and faithful Saviour.

*NB The Church Prayer Pointers for this month are available in church or on the WhatsApp group.*