

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

May 16, 2021

DISCUSSION 1: TEMPTATION (10:1-13)

1. What is idolatry
2. Read 1 Cor. 10:10. How might our grumbling reveal some of the idols of our heart?
3. Why is pride so spiritually dangerous (1 Cor. 10:12)? How can we cultivate humility and fight pride?
4. How do you apply 1 Cor. 10:13 when tempted? It might help to think of one or two areas in your life where you feel tempted (whether toward pride, immorality, greed, covetousness, unkindness, fear, idolatry, etc.), and then consider how you might turn to this verse as a promise and warning.
5. Why do we need to remember God's faithfulness (1 Cor. 10:13) as we fight temptation?
6. What's one temptation you're facing today that others can pray for you and encourage you in the fight?

DISCUSSION 2: IDOLATRY (10:14-22)

1. Which of the following idols are you most often tempted by?
 - *Power*: a longing for influence or recognition
 - *Control*: a longing to have everything go according to my plan
 - *Comfort*: a longing for pleasure
 - *Approval*: a longing to be accepted or desired
2. While we often only think about sin at the level of behavior or actions, why is it so important to consider our desires of the heart?
3. Read the following quote and discuss its significance for *how* we fight idolatry.

"The best way to overcome the world is not with morality or self-discipline. Christians overcome the world by seeing the beauty and excellence of Christ. They overcome the world by seeing something more attractive than the world: Christ. The only way to dispossess the heart of an old affection is by the expulsive power of a new one." Thomas Chalmers
4. When it comes to fighting idolatry, what is one way this group can be praying for and encouraging you?

DISCUSSION 3: REASONS TO AVOID IDOLATRY

1. What are some reasons we should not participate in idolatrous practices?
2. How does idolatry within the church often lead to division?
3. What does it mean to provoke God to jealousy? How do we be on guard against that?

