



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 25 Beware of Temptation
By Pastor Jody May 10/12/2025

1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 ESV

10 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."
People - "Thanks be to God."

Pray

Illustration



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[There are always dangers lurking about even when you are in comfortable surroundings. – Snake Alert! No matter how comfortable you become with your surroundings, nor how free you become accustomed to moving about your home, there is always an element of danger if you don't pay attention to where danger lies.].

For us as Christians, as we will see in the life of the Corinthians, is we become accustomed to the blessings of God's Grace, the removal of wrath, and a fresh slate on life, but it does not mean there is no more real danger. There is still a serpent that haunts the long grass of our lives, he is a deceiver, and many times when we don't watch where we tread, we can find ourselves taken out before we know what happened.

Introduction

That warning brings us to the beginning of chapter 10 where we again come to the topic of idolatry. It does have a different focus though of what we encountered back in chapter 8. We discovered that some of the Corinthian new converts were exercising their newfound liberties and were eating meat that was sacrificed to idols, uncaring about the weaker Christians who watched them. The problem was not that there was a problem with the meat, for all things are now clean ([Mark 7:19-20](#)), but that those watching, thought the meat was still under enchantment of lower gods or demonic powers. Leading them perhaps to indulging once again in foods sacrificed to idols expecting to gain something from it. In short it was causing people to leave the faith before it had taken root yet.

I think it is beneficial to zoom out and show you the simple argument that has led us here today in chapter 10 for it is all connected:

Wk. 22 Theological Truth: Don't let love of self cause you to sin against other Christians by getting them to stumble back into sin. (8:1-13)

Instead



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Wk. 23 Theological Truth: When you indulge in your liberties make sure it helps with proclamation and explanation of the Gospel in those around you. (9:1-18)

Therefore

Wk. 24 Theological Truth: The best plan of attack is practicing the freedoms you have becoming a slave to Christ in all situations focusing your energies on trying to win souls for an eternal and imperishable wreath. (9:19-27)

Because here's a Dire Warning... (Wk. 25 - 10:1-13)

And the Dire Warning has to do with Idolatry, but not the visible sin of going to a temple and eating meat, but what it means about you when at the end of the day you choose to indulge in your freedoms brought to you by the Grace of Jesus. You see when we abuse our freedoms, when we damage other people (8), when we neglect our responsibilities to advance the Gospel (9a), when we work not at becoming a slave to Christ so we may win some to Christ (9b), we have now taken on **Self-Idolatry** or Self Worship. We have now become the most important person in the world, when in contrast the Gospel says our worth is in Christ and what He deems as important. Instead of being a soldier of the Gospel we can become an enemy to it. So, here's what I want us to learn today that sums up the theological truth for this week.

MP:

**Accept God's Gracious Blessings but
Don't Ignore the Dangers of Sin.**

As Christians we graciously accept, believe, and indulge in the blessings of the Gospel, but we do have tendencies sometimes, because of the extravagancies of God's love, to make this relationship with /God all about us. When in fact what you are experiencing is the deepness of God's Love through Grace among the church. In other words, people can be in a church experience the love of Christ displayed by people who are living out the law of Christ (Gal 6:2 - bear one another's burdens), believing they are loved for who



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they are instead of who Christ is. They mistake social acceptance with the election of God.

God loves gloriously not because of who we are but because He is a glorious God! And family, any appeal we have to the Father is tied intrinsically to Christ **for without Him there is no favor!** Therefore, what we will do today along with Paul is look at the dangers of living as a people who think too much about their freedoms and too little about being called to the Holiness of God.

The way we will present this today, is three different ways of accepting the Grace that God gives us, while paying attention to how God responds to the sin of self-idolatry/when we think too highly of ourselves. **First, we want to accept the blessings of Grace with God's automatic response to sin.** That is to say, because we are blessed by God (perhaps lulled into believing that by living among the body) does not mean He cannot become displeased with us and our rebellion. Secondly, **we accept the blessings of grace with God's appropriate correction for sinners.** Because we are blessed by God do not wrongly believe that we will not be disciplined by God. Thirdly, **we accept the blessings of grace with God's assurance when temptation comes.** Because we are blessed by God it does not mean we are not tempted to fall into temptation but because He is a gracious God, He will deliver His own out of sin. Again, this all teaches us to enjoy our blessings of Grace but don't be fooled into the sin of self-idolatry and that God won't graft out those who abuse common grace.

1. Accept the Blessings of Grace with God's Accurate Response to Sin.

10 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, **with most of them God was not pleased**, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.



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Paul begins with this dire warning with a beautiful poetic interpretation of the OT saving of the OT elect who was Israel. This adds to the argument that for Paul, even in spite of his love for the Jews, sees only 1 people of God, the children of Abraham, children of faith ([Gal 3:7-9](#)).¹

He does not want them to be unaware, of what lies hidden, of where danger lurks, for he has seen this before. His ancestors were under the cloud; it is the pillar of fire by day and pillar of smoke by night, it is the presence of God Himself ([Ex 13:17-22](#)).² That representation of God gave the OT people of God confidence to live their lives, His visible protection was always there.

They passed through the sea under that cloud. The Sea, the mighty waters always represented Chaos and fear to God's people. It represented uncontrollable powers and yet God, by Moses' outstretched arm, split the sea and through the dangers of the deep God delivered His people ([Ex 14](#)). Meaning God has proven to be more than a match for the evil forces of this world.³

They passed through that sea, through the waters, just like Baptism, believing in one who foreshadowed the coming of Christ. The people put their faith in Moses because of his signs and wonders that started with the plagues in Egypt.

They were supplied food and water in the wilderness where without God there would be no provision to last. They ate the manna that fell like dew in the morning, they ate the meat of quails until they were stuffed, they drank water from a rock from a spring that never stopped flowing. And Paul says that Rock was Christ. Just as you have discovered from Him all that you have ever needed is found in Him.

All these blessings they had, all this deliverance, from enemies, from nature, from death. It was all a display of God's might, all of it given as GRACE! And yet Paul says, and here's the dire warning today, with **most of them, God was**

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/sons-of-Abraham.html>

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/pillar-cloud-fire.html>

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/parting-Red-Sea.html>



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not pleased (10:5). Paul says they were overthrown in the wilderness. By what cause? Their own self-idolatry, they mistook the provision of God as a sign of weakness of His favor towards them. Yet God was very clear about the OT covenant, you break it, and you lost the blessing. To the point that God withheld the promise land from that generation, not one of the disobedient generations were allowed to make it back to their ancestral home, except for Joshua and Caleb.

Family, Paul is simply saying that it is good to accept, be pleased with and enjoy God's amazing grace and provision in our lives, that happens **THROUGH the community of the church**, but don't for a second believe that God accepts one's sinful and unrepentant attitude as well. Paul saw the same outcome for the Corinthians ahead unless they repented and turned, they can still lose the blessing of God.

Theologically speaking what are we seeing here?

LBCF 1689 Chapter 16 of Good Works

7. Works done by unregenerate people may in themselves be commanded by God and useful to themselves and others.¹⁹ Yet they do not come from a heart purified by faith²⁰ and are not done in a right manner according to the Word²¹ nor with a right goal—the glory of God.²² Therefore, they are sinful and cannot please God. They cannot qualify anyone to receive grace from God,²³ and yet their neglect is even more sinful and displeasing to God.²⁴

¹⁹[2 Kings 10:30; 1 Kings 21:27, 29.](#) ²⁰[Genesis 4:5; Hebrews 11:4, 6.](#) ²¹[Corinthians 13:1.](#) ²²[Matthew 6:2, 5.](#) ²³[Amos 5:21, 22; Romans 9:16; Titus 3:5.](#) ²⁴[Job 21:14, 15; Matthew 25:41-43.](#)

The people that are enjoying their freedoms and not caring at all about the spiritual state of others but are still living among the church gaining from its' blessings, **they are not actually regenerated people**. They may be going to services, they may be a part of community, they may even give financially, but the lack of concern for others as shown in their pursuit of how they choose to live their lives, shows that all their presentation of being a Christian is false. Just like those that came out of Egypt, OT saints were saved by faith in God



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shown by love and obedience to the Rock Christ, and it is the same way for the NT believer, our faith is shown by our love and obedience to the Rock Christ. (that's the difference between a person that professes faith and a person that possess faith – RC Sproul)

Family I want us all to accept and appreciate God's Gift of Grace to us, but please be aware of the dangers that lie around us. If you are living without concern for others that is a sure sign that you may not have received the True Faith of God.

Love for God comes first with the gift of Grace but always leads us into a love for others which is fueled by grace.

Family, do you take your Salvation too leisurely, do you spend a lot of time telling God what you want on top of you being saved? Are you spending the largest amount of time praying for yourselves or praying for others? Are all your prayers and life pursuits about what makes you happy? If you answered yes to 1 of those it may be time for a nice wake up call, if you answered yes to 2 or 3 it might be time to pull the fire alarm. As we all accept and benefit from God's extravagant grace, please understand that **God's Accurate response to sin is to remove it out of the camp.** I pray that you take this warning seriously today and repent and pray for forgiveness and take seriously the gift that you have been given.

2. Accept the Blessings of Grace with God's Appropriate Correction for sinners.

There are 5 specific sins that Paul is pointing out here in verses 6-11 that he is comparing to the sins of ancient Israel. 5 different events all of which correlated with God's appropriate correction for those in sin. Meaning for Paul that if these things are not repented in the New Kingdom Church, Corinth then and us now, we should respect the same type of accurate responses.

[Numbers 11:18-34](#) – **Sin of Lust** - ⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not **desire evil as they did.**



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We are told in Numbers 11:18-34 how the Israelites complained about only having manna to eat. The story in Numbers speaks to **the lust of wanting more** than what God provided. They complained so much to God, that God gave them an abundance of meat in the form of quail that it overwhelmed them. People took the blessings of grace and demanded more, and God cleaned the camp out. Numbers 11 - ³³ *While the meat was yet between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord struck down the people with a very great plague.*³⁴ *Therefore the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had the craving.* This correlates with that demand for liberties by the Corinthians in eating food sacrificed to idols.

[Exodus 32](#) - **Sin of Idolatry** - ⁷ *Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."*

This event compares what the Corinthians are doing to what the Israelites did at Mt. Sinai. They rose up while Moses was on the mountain receiving the 10 commandments, they pressured Aaron for a golden calf, and then their behavior turned to intense partying. The word Paul uses for 'play' alludes to more than just carrying on, it means engaging in all sorts of sexual deviancy while intoxicated. The Israelites took Grace as an excuse to indulge in sick behaviors, so were the Corinthians, and again the warning is God uses extreme measures to clean out the faithless - ³⁵ *Then the Lord sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made.* That speaks to those ok with the guy sleeping with his father's wife, remember that? There were people in the church defending that behavior.

[Numbers 25:1-9](#) - **Sin of Sexual Immorality** - ⁸ *We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.*

Another account later when the men of Israel go too close to the daughters of Moab they began to party with them, not necessarily take them as wives, and in return accepted their evil worship. It was a second attempt at living how



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you want, you see, they were like *ok this time let's sin with those outside the camp, don't get serious, but let's enjoy their lifestyles*. In the end another plague hits and it kills off thousands before the act of Phinehas (Aaron's grandson) stopped an active religious rebellion physically killing, capital punishment, which assuaged Gods' wrath. This is a warning against the Corinthians who kept trying to push the boundaries as in chapter 7 whether to divorce or marry it doesn't matter the reason as long as you can make a reasonable case for it.

[Numbers 21:4-9](#) – **Sin of Testing God** - ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,

Testing God means to test the boundaries of someone's patience based on who they are. The Israelites instead of trusting God for provision complained nonstop just as the Corinthians were complaining as they were being provided for in the midst of Corinthian culture. Both groups wanted to go back into captivity, both wanted to taint the grace they had already received, and both were offensive to Christ and what He had already done for them as the Rock of their Salvation. In OT Israel, He sent snakes and got rid of those that tainted his people with complaints and bad-mouthing God's goodness. As in chapter 6 where people are suing each other in the church and were more insistent on their rights and what was coming to them then what God intended for them to have. Paul won't allow for it when it comes to bad-mouthing Christ and neither should we as God's people.

When we hear people complain about the goodness of Jesus in the midst of this world because they want to go back to its' ways, is a sure sign of someone that has not met Jesus yet!

[Numbers 16:41-50](#) – **Sin of Grumbling** - ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

The people of Israel began to grumble after they saw the punishment of Korah and his rebellion against Moses. It is the same for Paul, there were those in the Corinth church who challenged and questioned Paul's Apostolic authority. The ground swallowed Korah, the people grumbled and again a plague struck



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Israel. There were those that stood against Paul and were being removed from the assembly. The sin of Grumbling means the lack of recognition of the Authority of God's Word in one's life.

Even then Paul accounts all these events, the recording of that OT history, as Grace for the Corinthians.

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

End of ages, eschatological speech for, 'those of us in the New covenant now'. Family, that means Paul is speaking to all of us right now, we all need to accept the good graces of God, but we also need to accept the real appropriate responses of God to sin in the individual.

Right now, are there things we lust after too much, are we embracing a lifestyle that operates on pleasing ourselves too much? Are we constantly pushing against our boundaries in sinful culture bringing it into our homes under disguise? Do we complain against God in our prayers too much when we don't get our way? In every example btw from the OT, Moses goes and makes intercession, prayer and sacrifice for the people **so His elect would be saved**.

All to God's credit and Grace He still provides for us a Savior a better Moses who constantly speaks up for His people eternally interceding for us ([Heb 7:23-25](#)). Because of Jesus' work on our behalf family take joy, because God will not punish us by casting us out for those that are truly saved, that truly love Him, God will save His people out of those who are rebellious.

Family, there is an end though to those that are not obedient to God for it shows they were never of God. Please, please, please, put away the foolish worldly pursuits, put away the closed ears of rebellion, put away your attempts to try and live in two worlds at one time.

For those of you that heed this call this last part if great news for your ears!



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3. Accept the Blessings of Grace with God's Assurance when Temptation Calls.

Ok so in closing, Paul has two things to say those who are starting to listen to the fact that God cannot ignore sin when it is own camp among His own people. Here's his first bit of advice.

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Paul is speaking directly towards those that think they don't have to listen, to those that boast, to those that think their liberties are more important than weak conscience of others. He gives them the title of those "**that stand**". That is **those who are proud**, those who think to highly of themselves, those who question and argue with everything Paul is saying, those are the **Proud!**

You know I heard one time – "*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*" – **Prov 16:8 ESV**

Then he says **take heed, lest you fall**. Fall means to die, whether it is a spiritual death, or as you will find out later, there were those who being prideful have already physically died. They died when they defamed Christ's name by taking communion in an unrepentive state. ([1 Cor 11:19-30](#)). They Corinthian church is already seeing the hand of God's judgment start, and Paul here, just like Moses, is trying to intervene for their sake.

Ok one more thing that Paul wants to say to those that are actually heeding.

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Paul's second bit of advice is for those that are caught up in watching this unfold. It seems they are already having a little bit of fear creep in, *what if I am not taking this seriously, am I questioning God too much, am I making a*



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mockery out of the faith? This is where it is so good to remember that we have a sovereign God, that will persevere in His people, all the way to the end.

There will be no temptation that you can fall into that will sweep you away from the grace of God for those that truly are saved! He will always provide the ability to get away from that type of trouble! How do you know if that is you? Family, let me ask you simply, are you a little worried about it today? Are you taking seriously the warning here in scripture? Then be glad you take it seriously, that is God's Grace too, it's called the **Fear of the Lord**. It is the fact that you believe God will do as He says He will do, and that is how God is preserving you. Those that don't take God seriously will not listen and will fall away.

[CALL TO OBEY]

Proverbs 9:10 ESV

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

- When living in community with other believers don't be afraid to ask their opinions on your judgment.

Proverbs 12:15 ESV - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

The danger for the believer is to live in the echo chamber of their own mind. Before you take actions on your liberties, especially in what you may deem to be Gray areas ethically, best to get the opinion of some God-fearing folk.

- When living in community with other believers don't be so afraid to offer some gentle advice.

Psalms 25:4-5 ESV - Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.



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There must be somewhere in your prayer life where instead of asking God to answer your prayers you call out for wisdom and guidance. You admit to God you are struggling with making good decisions and ask for HS conviction to make right decisions.

MP:

**Accept God's Gracious Blessings but
Don't Ignore the Dangers of Sin.**

Family I want to encourage us all, live in gratitude of the Grace and Freedoms He has given each of us, but please be aware of the dangers of our Pride. Let us pray together and ask God for His Wisdom and conviction and to lead us not into temptation.

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. Our Lord in His life took pride not in His earthly wisdom but in the plans displayed by His Father in the OT. While we would not trust in God's provision for life Jesus entrusted Himself fully. Jesus trusted that Word, again putting down His freedoms, to be raised up like the serpent in the wilderness, so that all that would look to Him would be saved. Praise be to Him for His commitment to the Father!



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Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. The Lord suffered and endured in being lifted up for all to see the shame that we all deserved. He alone who knew no sin, took upon Himself the sins of His people. So that now when we look to the cross we witness the Fear of God; we are strengthened when we are tempted, we are emboldened when we feel weak. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – **“Christians, what do we believe?”** Congregation – recites:

LBCF 1689 Chapter 5 Paragraph 5 of Divine Providence

God Often Disciplines or Tests His Children

The perfectly wise, righteous, and gracious God often leaves his children to various temptations and the sinfulness of their own hearts:

- to discipline them for their former sins, or
- to teach them the hidden strength of the sinfulness and deceitfulness of their hearts,

for the purpose of humbling them. He also does this:

- to lead them to more closely and constantly depend upon him for their support,
- to make them more cautious against future temptations to sin, and
- for other just and holy purposes

15 Therefore, whatever happens to any of his elect is because of his decree and happens for his glory and their good. 16

15. 2 Chronicles 32:25-26, 31; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

16. Romans 8:28



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[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, who graciously provided a way for His elect to be saved since the beginning and will continue to do the same for you.

Go in the name of the Son, that brought forth the New Covenant whereby through His work we will be saved, cling to Him family.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the pride that needs killing and will provide strength in times of temptation! Go and give this good news to others.

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