

1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

Warning Signs

Some Christians were standing along the side of a road near a sharp corner one night with signs that read – “Warning the end is near.”

A) That is when a man pulled up in his car and started yelling at the Christians –

B) You stupid C’s always so doom and gloom – why don’t you try making a positive impact on the world for a change.

1) He sped off around the corner

C) Minutes later they heard the screeching of tires – a loud crash and then an explosion.

D) That is when the one Christian turned to his friend and said: “Don’t you think it would be better if our signs read – Warning the bridge is out?”

Warnings Need to be clear. – Paul was one who was clear about the warnings he gave in Scripture.

A) Clear warning here in V.14 – Therefore my beloved Flee from Idolatry

B) Tonight we come to the end of this discussion that started back in chapter 8 on the subject of Christian liberty.

1) Right and wrong uses of liberty

C) We saw in our study last week 10:1-13 – Paul turned to the History of the Children of Israel -

1) Liberty used wrongly can lead to idolatry and sexual immorality

So with that in mind – Paul says V.14 -Therefore-

A) Because of all those examples I just gave you about the people of Israel

You flee from Idolatry – don’t play around with it – Flee

B) The word Flee in the Greek is the word FUGO – repeat – what does that sound like –

1) FOOL GO – get out of there.

C) Don’t mess around with sin – flee from it – sometimes we think of the sin is no big deal – handle this –

1) No idea it can kill us

D) The guys who stopped at a diner small town – how you doing – good Weird thing happened

1) bridge – bit by baby worms I didn’t think – worms could bite

E) Just then a doc in the jumped up and rushed out the door - before saying those aren’t worms -

1) Raced off to the bridge - not worms – they were baby rattlesnakes – venom is just as potent as an adult – he was already dead

Sometimes we think - this is small and cute - no big deal – but that sin is just as potent. –

A) Need to flee – FOOL GO

B) Now when we hear this exhortation to flee idolatry that can sort of be hard for us to relate to in our western world

C) No shrines in our backyards - sacrifices

D) But idolatry is still a problem in our culture today.

What is Idolatry ?

A) #1 Changing the image of God

You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea – Exodus 20:4

B) Now before you say – I would never do that – I don’t know anyone who does that – again not our culture –

1) I would respond – not so fast

C) In the NT we are given a clear picture of God – found in the person of His son Jesus Christ –

³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. John 1:18

A) Sometimes – play hide and seek with my grandson – Josiah – he likes to hide and I seek – here is how he hides – plain view blanket -

B) Where is J? – Throws the blanket off! Easy to find

1) When Jesus came you could say that God was hiding in plain view

John 14:9 – **Seen me you have seen the father -**

Hebrews 1:3 ³ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person.

C) **Express image is the exact representation!**

So Idolatry is changing the image of God – here is how that still happens today.

A) Change the image of Jesus – the Jesus I believe in is loving – he would never send people to hell.

B) Jesus spoke more about hell than heaven – real place and real people go there

1) He doesn't send – people choose

C) OR THIS ONE - My Jesus is Accepting of everyone – every lifestyle -

1) Jesus said – **if you love me keep my commandments – he who is not for me is against me – no neutral ground**

D) We can't pick and choose the parts of the Bible we are going to obey.

#1 Idolatry is changing the image of God

#2 Idolatry is abandoning God's way for another way!

A) Good illustration of this point in the life of King Saul – 1 Samuel 15

B) Go and attack the Amalekites - a ruthless people – God had given them 100's of years to turn from their wicked ways.

1) Finally God says to his King – Saul – go and destroy them – they needed to be eradicated like a cancer.

C) God said – **Take no Spoil! One of only 3 places where God said – don't take the spoil**

Saul goes down with the army – they are victorious!

A) But Saul doesn't follow God's way – he follows his own way – he brings back the choice OX and Sheep and lambs – and King Agag

B) God sends Samuel the prophet out to meet Saul – **Why didn't you listen?**

1) Saul gives his excuses and reasoning – brought them to sacrifice to the Lord! (really wanting to look good in the eyes of the people)

C) Listen to what Samuel says – and how he frames this:

²² So Samuel said: “Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,

As in obeying the voice of the LORD?

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,

And to heed than the fat of rams.

²³ For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. 1 Samuel 15:22-23

D) Then it says – Samuel took Saul's sword and hacked Agag to pieces

E) 15 year old insight – “We are called to disobey ourselves in order to obey God.”

Idolatry is abandoning God's way for another way!

A) I think this is one of the biggest problems in the church today.

B) Believers who engage in Sexual immorality

1) Believers who cheat on taxes – cut corners in business – gossip

C) How many of you have heard this one – I know what the Bible says -BUT

1) NEW SAYING: I know what the Bible says – Bow – I am going to bow to that

D) Lots of talk about Revival today – you know what precedes Revival?

1) Obedience

“We must be willing to obey if we would know the true inner meaning of the teachings of Christ and the apostles. I believe this view prevailed in every revival that ever came to the church during her long history. Indeed a revived church may be distinguished from a dead one by the attitude of its members toward the

truth. The dead church holds to the shell of truth without surrendering the will to it, while the church that wills to do God's will is immediately blessed with a visitation of spiritual powers."- Tozer

#1 Idolatry is changing the image of God

#2 Idolatry is abandoning God's way for another way!

#3 Idolatry is putting something in the place of God or above God.

A)There is a seat that God should hold in our lives – King

B)Idolatry is when I put myself or someone else or something else in the seat

1)That person or pursuit becomes the King –

C)Many Christians treat God like an additive –

1)This is what I am doing -pursuing – my plan – praying God blesses it

D)Instead of asking God to bless what we are doing – 1)around here our praying is Lord help us to be doing what you are blessing

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!

A)Your will and way – above my will and way –

B)Lord I want to bend toward your plan – I am not asking you to bend toward my plan.

C)So exhortation – Flee Idolatry

#1 Idolatry is changing the image of God

#2 Idolatry is abandoning God's way for another way!

#3 Idolatry is putting something in the place of God or above God.

D)Timeless truth that doesn't change – however the setting will change the circumstances will change -

E)The setting in 1st century Corinth was different from what we are dealing with today-

1)But the truth is still the same

Before we get Back to our text

A)Remind you of the setting in Corinth – The City revolved around these pagan temples – Idol worship took place

B)These temples – housed what we would call our restaurants – and meat markets – shambles

C)Denise – ask me on a Saturday am – What I want for dinner tonight – 9X out of 10 the answer is meat –

1)Heading to Fraser farms – Steak or Chicken

In those days – Head to market – shambles connected to the pagan temple

A)Best cut of meat at the best price

B)So Paul is going to come full circle here in the discussion that he began in chapter 8 –

1)should we eat meat sacrificed to idols

C)Recall – Paul said in Ch 8 the mature believer – knows an idol is nothing – just a wood or stone –

1)So to eat meat offered to an idol is no big deal.

However – there were believers in the body – who came out of that pagan lifestyle – who had a weaker conscience

A)They felt to eat the meat sacrificed to idols was the same as participating in the idolatry - No part of it

B)So Paul laid the responsibility of handling liberty rightly on mature brother or sister -

1)Love and fellowship supersedes liberty –

C)The mature bro/sis must be willing to forfeit their liberty out of love for their bro.

13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. 1 Corinthians 8:13

Now Paul comes full circle as he closes out this discussion

15 I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

Now truth he is seeking to remind them of is – they are connected together in Jesus!

A) One of the things we are celebrating when we partake of communion together –

B) Celebrating our oneness in Jesus

C) In fact in that culture they believed that people became one when they ate together -dipping in the same Humus bowl –

D) We don't think that way - **US - Yea if Double dipping – sharing germs**

1) NO DDing

But they looked at the whole ritual of eating together as becoming one with each other

A) How can Jesus eat with tax collectors and sinners – One with them

B) He went further- He became sin for them- for us

But this is the mindset – Paul is drawing upon here – Eating together makes us one

18 Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? 19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 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.

Here is what Paul is saying: Meat is not a problem - but it is the meeting place- it is the temple.

A) If you are going to the temple of the pagan god and partaking of the meat there - that is a problem

B) Even though idol is nothing – we know there is only one true God – **there are demons behind the idols – Duet 32:17**

C) So although eating meat that has been sacrificed to an idol is not a big deal/ **but doing it in the shamble- courts of the temple is**

1) It can come across like you are condoning and participating in the Idolatry

D) Doesn't fit – One day I am at church partaking of the cup of the Lord

1) Next day I am at the pagan temple – partaking of the cup of demons

E) Doesn't fit

22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

A) If I hang around places where the atmosphere is corrupt, I push the Lord to jealousy.

B) But Why is He jealous? When you or I get jealous, it's because we feel threatened.

1) The Lord's jealousy, however, is entirely different.

C) He's not jealous of other gods. He's jealous for you and me.

Think of it this way: Let's say that you are a Single sister in the Lord here at CV

A) And you notice that a guy shows up here from your work – rep for being a womanizer

B) You see him showing an interest in one of your single friends here at the church

C) So you lovingly go up to her and say – Hey I see so and so has been talking to you –

1) I know him from my work – he has a bad rep – not sure he is saved – be careful

Let's say – that sister says to you – Oh you are just jealous – he is talking to me

A) It would be because she failed to understand that you were not jealous OF him, but jealous FOR her.

B) So, too, the Lord is not jealous of demonic entities.

C) They're not a threat to Him. But He's jealous for us.

D) He doesn't want to see us destroyed.

1) Therefore, He'll do whatever is necessary to bring us back to where we need to be.

E) It is a warning about being careful – not getting sucked into something that could hurt me

23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

A) So the question that we need to ask ourselves in these **matters of liberty is not can I do this or not** – If Gray – Lawful - liberty

B) So the question I am asking is not can I – but should I – it is lawful but is it going to edify – build up

C) Is it going to build me up in my relationship with Jesus – or does it have the potential to pull me down?

1) If I exercise my liberty in this setting – lawful – I can do this – but is it going to build up my brother who is watching me.

D) Back to the Big idea of Chapter 8 Love and fellowship supersede liberty when it comes to the body of Christ

24 Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

Super practical - Personal guidelines

25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; 26 for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

Weaker brother- In the market place - shopping for meat –

A) Don't bother to ask the shop owner did this come from the temple of Idol

B) Just buy it and enjoy – you don't need to know where it came from

C) Guidelines in dealing with Unbelievers

27 If any of those who **do not believe** invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake.

D) Unbelieving friend invites you to dinner – don't ask where the meat came from- not a big deal -

1) might turn him off to Jesus or it might Affect your conscience

E) Better to NOT KNOW!

28 But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness." 29 "Conscience," I say,

not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience? 30 But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks?

Now the overall idea that Paul is getting at here in V.28-30 – the unbeliever is making a big deal – this was offered to idol

A) Like throwing it in your face or idea – this is part of my worship to Zues – **Paul says – don't eat – that is a time to make a stand.**

B) Similar way – Let's say your next door neighbor – invites you to a BBQ on Saturday –

C) While he is grilling he boastingly says – **You know where I got this meat?**

1) No tell me

D) I was driving behind Frasers the other night – back door was open – everyone was gone

1) Opportunity - Meat department – I took 20 Ribeye steaks – Having my friend over for BBQ

E) Well that would be good time to make a stand – say – that is wrong and sorry I am not eating this

1) That is the idea. - He is flaunting his sin – and you shouldn't partake in it

The Unbeliever is flaunting his idolatry – This came from the worship of...

A) Come join me as we celebrate my God –

B) Sorry dude – I am going to pass – there is only one God – your God is not him.

C) Now you could rationalize in your mind – **well – good looking steak and I know the idol is nothing – even if he doesn't**

D) But it is understanding – he is asking you to be a part of something that means something to him

1) If you participate with him it is communicating that you agree with him

E) Eat of my neighbors stolen beef - I am showing I don't have a problem with how he got it and I should

Wrap up Conversation on liberty – how conduct ourselves

**A) Paul brings it back to his two main motivations
- #1 God's glory has to be our first motivation.**

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

B) On this issue of exercising liberty – Eat or drink – let God's glory be your motivation –
1)) How will the Lord be most glorified in this situation - if eat or don't eat

Over arching Motivation for life

A) Lord in every aspect of my life – be magnified –

B) Work for you – not a paycheck – So enjoyable
1) – cook clean house for you not compliment but for the Lord – Divine service happens here twice a day

C) If that is my desire – God be glorified - I am always going to do my best!

D) I will not be prone to cut corners – take extra time off -

E) My hobbies and other pursuits will all stay in the right perspective – God's glory is my motivation

2nd Motivation – the testimony of the Gospel

32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I also please all men in all things, **not seeking my own profit**, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ

Paul's example back in Chapter 9:22-23 I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. ²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*.

Awesome way to live
God's glory

Gospel testimony –

You will be free – full of Joy and really effective