

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

Paul continues his encouragement in faith & righteousness in **Vs. 14**, “**Therefore, my beloved**”

- **Therefore...** because of all I’ve shown you so far...

.....
Let’s reaffirm our foundation for understanding this letter:

- **Who** wrote it & **what** did he mean?
- **Who** was it written to & **what** did they understand?
- These are **the primary lenses** defining the whole thing

.....
Ch. 1:2, To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are **sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints**, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours

.....
Do you embrace **your calling** to be saints, **sanctified in Christ Jesus**?

- Not Roman Catholic saints. No miracles required
- Completely submitted & dedicated to Christ, living to please & honor Him
- The result of being set apart by Christ

.....
He did not write to **the churches** of God at Corinth

- He meant, and they understood that **God’s church is One Church**, in their city & ours
- That is what makes their divisions a violation of God’s will, purpose & presence among them
- Set apart **From** individuality – **TO** the fullness of who Christ is in us together.

- We can’t have **all of who He is** without each other

.....
He is not writing to some of them...

- They cannot receive it to the exclusion of each other (**Ch. 1:12-13 & Ch. 12**)
- Dividing exalts their desires above God’s, distorting Paul’s message from the start

.....
We have been raised in such a divided congregational, denominational tradition...

- To think otherwise feels like an intrusion, a violation of our faith
- This is as radical as Peter on Simon the tanner’s roof (**Acts 10:9-22**)
- God confronted Peter **three times** before he received it

.....
What will it take for God’s Church today?

- All we can contribute is who & what we bring

.....
The church of God at Corinth... at Gig Harbor

- The church of God is **His church**, not ours (**Matt.16:18**)
- Will we live like He calls us, or insist on our established traditions?

.....
If we won’t receive it as written & understood yet...

- He’s going to be even more emphatic ahead soon
- Sincere misunderstanding of God’s Word does not change His meaning

.....

Ch.10:14, Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry**.

- *I have thoroughly explained the temptations & consequences of idolatry to you.*
- *Run from it like your life depended on it. **Because it does.***
- *Run like Joseph from Potiphar’s wife*

.....
Don’t try to see how close you can live to it without guilt. **Keep your distance!**

- *If God won’t join you in it... **Don’t!***

.....
Vs. 15, I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say.

- *He already exposed the folly of worldly wisdom that got them in trouble*
- *He’s “assuming the sale” of their commitment to God’s wisdom*

.....
Vs. 16-17, 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**? For we, though many, are **one bread** and **one body**; for we all partake of **that one bread**.

- *The oneness of Christ’s body & blood reveals the oneness of all who partake of Him*

.....
Vs. 18-20, Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 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.

- *They are offensive to God. Don’t affirm or join them in it.*

Partakers of sacrifices to demons do so honoring them & joining together in it

- *In their minds, just as we are one together with Christ*

.....
Acknowledging their observance says we give credence to it (pseudo-Christian religions)

- *Even appearing to acknowledge false gods undermines the truth of who God is*

.....
Don’t send a mixed message as if it doesn’t matter.

- *i.e. – Bumper stickers with multiple religious belief symbols, linking them as equal*

.....
Vs. 21-22, 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. Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

- **Matthew 6:24**, “No one can serve two masters”

.....
II Corinthians 6:14–16, Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.

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

- **Philippians 2:3-5**, Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

Choosing self-interest was not unique to the Corinthians believers

- Is common to all of humanity since Cain killed his brother Abel...
- The fruit of his parent's selfish choice instead of devotion to God.
- It held true when "Lot chose for himself" over his uncle & mentor, Abram.

Like Christ, our highest regard is never for ourselves.

- The divisions they were suffering were not for the benefit of others,
- But from prideful, selfish, personal preference.

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

- There's no need to scrutinize the business practices of every retailer

Vs. 27-29, 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. 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." "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience? But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks?

This is not about what others would require of us...

- But about what we require of ourselves. It's **the liberty of love**, not policy
- Critics will condemn whatever you do

Matthew 11:18-19, For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

Vs. 31-33, Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God**. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, 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.

- Paul never changed who he was because of who he was reaching out to (**9:19-22**)

Ch.11:1, Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

- Follow godly examples, and be an example, just as we were called
- **Ch.1:2**, sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints