

Idol Feasts and the Lord’s Supper—1 Corinthians 10:14–22

Topics: Demons, History, Idolatry, Jealousy, Lord’s Supper, Sacrifice, Thankfulness, Unity

Open It

1. What kind of meals hold special significance for you? Why?
2. What does the Lord’s Supper mean to you?

1 Corinthians 10:14–22 (ESV)

¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

¹⁵I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.

¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

¹⁸Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?

¹⁹What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

²⁰No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

²²Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

Explore It

3. What importance did Paul assign to Communion? (10:14–17)
4. How can a Christian participate in the body of Christ? (10:16)
5. Why did Paul refer to Israel’s history? (10:18)
6. What was Paul’s purpose in discussing idol feasts? (10:18–22)
7. What should the Corinthians have known about sacrifices made to idols? (10:19–20)
8. Why should we work hard to celebrate the Lord’s Supper only out of devotion to Christ? (10:20–21)
9. How can a Christian provoke the Lord to jealousy? (10:22)

Get It

10. What kinds of activities today are like the pagan temple parties in Corinth?
11. What kinds of behavior provoke the Lord to jealousy?

Apply It

12. What can you do to prepare for the next time you celebrate the Lord’s Supper?
13. What idols do you need to avoid in your place of work or in your community? How?