

One Way Street

Long Beach Alliance Church • August 23rd, 2009 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Is not the cup of blessing which we
bless a sharing in the blood of Christ?

Is not the bread which we break a
sharing in the body of Christ?

~1st Corinthians 10:16 (NASB)

1) Don't Be Foolish! God's Way Is The Best Way!

- A) As followers of Christ, we sometimes feel (through circumstances or through our own foolish choices), that there is no escaping the sinful situations in which we find ourselves. However, this is not true (1st Corinthians 10:13)!

- B) When we choose our circumstances (temptation) over our devotion to God (worship), we are walking down a sinful path which gradually leads to either "faking" a relationship with Jesus, or "rejecting" a relationship with Jesus -- both of which lead to idolatry (10:14).

- C) But is idolatry really where we want to end up in life? Paul reasons that a wise follower of Christ would never choose idolatry over God (10:15). He chides the Corinthians to consider the "fruit of their ways."

- D) The invitation to "judge" (10:15) is directed at the upcoming section. In other words, "judge which way is best... Is it Jesus? Or is it demonic?"

2) Communion With Jesus or Communion With Demons?

- A) It goes without saying that most “unwise” people would choose just about anything over “communion with demons” (10:20-21). Paul’s point is “there is guilt by association, if the association is anti-Jesus Christ.”
- B) Using an example which all Christians can understand, Paul illustrates how certain activities (in this case, communion) reveal genuine agreement and participation in the meaning and significance of the activity (10:16-17).
- C) Historically speaking, in the same way that communion is a participation in Jesus Christ, Jews who ate from the altar of an idol (cf. 10:7) were participating in a ceremony which revealed genuine participation in idolatry.
- D) Is it the food, drink, or power of an idol which is at issue? No! However, these objects represent a demonic reality and value system which is opposed to Jesus Christ (10:20a) and should always be avoided (10:20b).

3) Living Out Our Communion With Jesus Christ

- A) With great clarity, Paul hammers home the reality that the way we live (our associations, our practices, our actions, our motivations) is an extension of our participation in communion with Jesus Christ or with the world (10:21).
- B) Living out our communion with Jesus Christ means carefully “judging” our actions in light of Scripture to assure our actions reveal fidelity to Jesus (10:22).
- C) Living out our communion with Jesus Christ means living free from the world (demonic) for the sake of communicating the gospel without distraction!