

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

1 Corinthians 10:21-24

Practice Covenant Faithfulness

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No Table Fellowship With Demons

1 Corinthians 10:21 (CSB)
You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot share in the Lord's table and the table of demons.

Cannot	Lord's Cup	Demon's Cup
↕	↕	↕
Cannot	Lord's Table	Demon's Table

Key verbs: "Drink" & "Share"

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Total Incompatibility

1 Corinthians 10:21 (CSB)
You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot share in the Lord's table and the table of demons.

- 'Cannot' is 1) Logical 2) Empirical 3) Moral
- The Lord's table is from a different spiritual source which logically excludes the other
- The Lord's table cannot be demonic
- The Demon's table cannot be Christian

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Do Not Test the Lord

1 Corinthians 10:22 (CSB)
Or are we provoking the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

- 'Or' introduces the irony of this situation and could be rendered 'What?'
- God is a jealous God; dining at the idol temple is testing God (Exodus 34:14-15)
- The 'stronger than He' phrase ironically rebukes the 'strong' at Corinth
- For testing God see (Exodus 17:1-7)

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Permissible But Not Beneficial

1 Corinthians 10:23 (CSB)
"Everything is permissible," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible," but not everything builds up.

- This is another Corinthian slogan
- Some of their liberties harmed others
- 'Beneficial' could be translated 'advantageous' or 'helpful'

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Christian Love

1 Corinthians 10:24 (CSB)
No one is to seek his own good, but the good of the other person.

- This ethical statement will be a key theme of chapters 11-14
- This reflects the teachings of Jesus about how we treat His 'little ones' (believers)

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Implications and Applications

- Believers must not mix true fellowship with God with pagan practices
- True fellowship with God must be exclusive

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Dangerous Fellowship

Deuteronomy 32:16, 17 (ESV)

They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger. **They sacrificed to demons that were no gods**, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.

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Do Not Test God

Deuteronomy 6:16 (ESV)

You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.

Exodus 17:7 (ESV)

And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because **they tested the LORD** by saying, **"Is the LORD among us or not?"**

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Unalloyed Fellowship

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (ESV)

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has **righteousness** with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has **light** with darkness? What accord has **Christ** with Belial? Or what portion does **a believer** share with an unbeliever?

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A People as God's Temple

2 Corinthians 6:16 (ESV)

What agreement has **the temple of God** with idols? For **we are the temple of the living God**; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

- **Verses 14-16 have 5 rhetorical questions which describe incompatible opposites**
- **We must cling to the true and valid**

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