



## 1 Corinthians 10:15-20

### Fellowship With God or Demons?

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### Paul Values Reason

#### 1 Corinthians 10:15 (ESV)

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

- 'Sensible' is *phronimos* = adj. 'thoughtful'
- 'Judge' is *krino* in the imperative: to make a judgment based on taking various factors into account (BDAG)
- This implies understanding Paul's reasoning and wisely applying it

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1

### Covenant Participation

#### 1 Corinthians 10:16 (ESV)

The 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?

- Blessing and bless: *eulogia & eulogeo*
- God is declared 'blessed' not a cup
- Participation translates *koino\_nia*
- Paul refers to the Lord's Supper (11:25)

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### Solidarity of the Body of Christ

#### 1 Corinthians 10:17 (ESV)

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

- We are one as a redeemed community
- The term "one" is emphasized
- "Many" and "all" describe unified plurality
- This unity is in Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit who indwells believers

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### Example of Israel

#### 1 Corinthians 10:18 (LEB)

Consider Israel according to the flesh: are not the ones who eat the sacrifices **sharers in the altar**?

- There is debate about why Paul uses "according to the flesh" here
- The best reading is to see this as the same wilderness generation (Deut. 32)
- The issue of being 'sharers' *koino\_nos* here is a transition to the next two verses

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### Fellowship With Demons

#### 1 Corinthians 10:19-20 (LEB)

Therefore, what am I saying? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but that **the things which they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons** and not to God, and I do not want you to become **sharers with demons**.

- Idols are not truly God (1 Cor. 8:5-6)
- The basis for this is Deut. 32:17

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## Implications and Applications

- We must understand the far-reaching implications of fellowship with God and one another
- The spiritual darkness of the fallen world entices us to false fellowship which is seductive but not from God
- True fellowship with God must be exclusive

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## Simple Christian Fellowship

### Acts 2:42 (ESV)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

- These were the first converts who came to faith hearing Peter's sermon on Pentecost
- How they came into this fellowship is described in Acts 2:37-41
- Acts 2:40 alludes to Deut. 32:5 'crooked'

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7

## Darkness Seduces

### Deuteronomy 32:5 (ESV)

They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation.

### Philippians 2:15 (ESV)

that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

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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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## 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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11