

I. Introduction: Paul explained why idolatry is repulsive to God. It is not a moral issue to eat meat offered to an idol, but it was a serious sin because He is jealous for our hearts.

- A. God has created us to worship. Human beings will give their heart away to someone or something, and if they reject God, then they will invent false gods to worship.

II. The Facts About Idolatry (1 Cor 10:14-22).

A. Idolatry is Dangerous (vv. 14-15).

1. Paul commanded the Corinthians to flee idolatry before it consumed their hearts and minds. The most dangerous thing for God's people is the sin of idolatry.

B. Idolatry is Incompatible (vv. 16-18).

1. Paul explained to the Corinthians that partaking of the communion table was an act of worship, where the participants were identifying themselves with Jesus Christ.

C. Idolatry is Demonic (vv. 19-20).

1. Paul told the Corinthians that idols were nothing, but that by partaking in pagan meals they were participating in the worship of demons.

D. Idolatry is Offensive (vv. 21-22).

1. Paul told the Corinthians that they could not worship idols and God, because He is a jealous God and He would not tolerate rival deities receiving His worship.

III. Conclusion: Paul warned the Corinthians not to eat at pagan temples because they were participating in the worship of false deities, and God would not tolerate their idolatry.

Questions About: The Facts About Idolatry

1. What poses the greatest danger to Christians? What are the first and second commandments? (**Ex 20:1-6**) What is idolatry? Why are there so many “gods” and religions in the world?
2. What was Paul’s command concerning idolatry? (**1 Cor 10:14-15**) How did Paul appeal to the Corinthians? (**v. 14**) How were they to judge what Paul would say? (**v. 15**)
3. How are human beings, worshippers? How do we attach our identity to things? How do idols give people meaning, purpose, value, and worth? How do people run to idols for comfort?
4. How is taking communion an act of worship? (**1 Cor 10:16-18**) How does it unite God’s people in fellowship? (**v. 17**) How did Israel participate in the sacrifices by eating? (**v. 18**)
5. What did Paul say was the source of idolatry? (**1 Cor 10:19-20**) Why did Paul say that an idol is nothing? (**1 Cor 8:4-6; 10:19**) How do we reconcile these two statements of Paul?
6. Why are there so many religions and “gods” historically? (**1 Tim 4:1; Eph 6:12**) Why did Paul tell the Corinthians not to eat at pagan temples? (**1 Cor 10:20**) What is the application for us?
7. What did Paul conclude about idolatry? (**1 Cor 10:21-22**) Why does God become jealous? (**v. 22; Ex 20:5; 34:14**) Does something have your affections other than God?
8. What do you give your time to? Your money to? What do you run to for comfort? What do you fear losing? What consumes your thinking? Are there any idols in your heart?

Prayer

1. Ask God to search you and reveal to you if there are any idols in your life.
2. Ask God to deliver you from the idols that distract you from full devotion to Him.