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The Anatomy of an Idol

I Corinthians 10:1-11:1 | Week Seven | Participant Guide

Preparing for the Session

Read: I Corinthians 10:1-11:1

Memorize: *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* - I Cor. 10:31

Looking at the Text

10:1-13

1. Paul begins this reading with the phrase, “For I do not want you to be unaware,” used several times in his writings (Rom. 1:13; 1 Cor. 12:1; 2 Cor. 1:8; and 1 Thes. 4:13). In other words, Paul doesn’t want believers to be ignorant. Why is it important for Christians to seek true knowledge?

2. The example of Israel is given as a warning about what could happen to those who seek idols over God. Why is it important that we understand the past?

3. How should we view temptation when it comes into our lives v23?

10:14-22

4. How do you think verse 21 applies to us today? Are there situations in your academic pursuits where this passage might apply?

10:23-11:1

5. In verse 24, Paul calls believers to focus on others over themselves. Why do you think this is a helpful Christian principle to follow? What might this look like in your academic life?

6. Why is it beneficial for us to imitate Christian role models and mentors (11:1)?

7. Verse 31 is foundational to what Paul is discussing. What distracts you from doing everything for God’s glory? How can you overcome those distractions?

“Each culture is dominated by its own set of idols. Each has its ‘priesthoods,’ its totems and rituals. Each one has its shrines—whether office towers, spas and gyms, studios, or stadiums—where sacrifices must be made in order to procure the blessings of the good life and ward off disaster. What are the gods of beauty, power, money, and achievement but these same things that have assumed mythic proportions in our individual lives and in our society?”
Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*

“Western society, in turning away from Christian faith, has turned to other things ... All such principles that substitute for God exemplify the biblical concept of idol.”
Herbert Schlossberg, *Idols for Destruction*