

GAMMA 2017

STUDY 11

1 Corinthians 10

Temptations and food offered to idols

- 1. What does it mean to be baptised into Moses?**

- 2. Why does Paul give the example from history in this chapter? What point does this make? Can you share from your personal experience how we too can easily fall in to this trap?**

- 3. What were the four types of sins that the Israelites fell into and how does each type bear relevance to our own susceptibilities today?**

- 4. What is Paul's point in verse 11-13, what does he want to the Corinthians to be mindful of ?**

- 5. In taking up the topic again on food offered to idols from verse 14 onwards, how does the word "therefore " in verse 14 link to the previous passage on the topic of temptation**

6. In verses 14-22 Paul forbids the partaking of food offered to idols but in verse 23-Chapter 11:1 he takes the opposite view can you explain this is he contradicting himself?
7. What is the basis of Paul's advice for them not to eat food offered to idols at a private meal at home if someone points out that it is food offered to idols (vv 10:31-11:1)
8. How does this principle guide us in our daily interaction with the Christian community around us?

Case 1

Randolph is a sale executive for a company and has to do a lot of entertainment with clients. They sell heavy machinery and when their Japanese customers come into town he used to take them to the best hotels to wine and dine them. Inevitably, the request would come to provide girls for them and Randolph had to be the person who provided for them.

Even in drinking hard liquor he had to drink it up with clients otherwise they will be insulted if there was no participation. Financially, he could not afford to loose this job as there were plenty of people who wanted his job. He had just become a Christian and was increasingly uneasy with this aspect of his job. Additionally, in terms of submitting the bills for reimbursement, his boss and him used to pad the bills and now that he has a new faith he needs to make some hard decisions.

Part of his job was also to deal with the authorities for licenses and permits for which he had to provide bribes to officials. He lived in a country where basically everyone had to give something or else get no permits to bring in the heavy machinery for sale

1. What are the temptations that Randolph faces in his job?
2. How can he tactfully deal with all these issues at work or can he?

Case 2

Penelope came from a strong Christian family where her father was the pastor of their church. At an early age she was a youth leader in her church where she served for many years. She went off to college in Australia and joined a church but was not active there. She loved her new found freedom away from home. She discovered new experiences like alcohol. Her main friends were hard drinking Aussies who loved to do the clubbing scene, frequenting pubs and lots of discotheques. Off and on they would do cocaine as well. She did not join them in doing the drugs but had started drinking because she wanted to feel as if she belonged. She developed a strong friendship with a Non Christian boy who loved to party and drink hard. He also was quite amorous and liked to have his way her physically although they stopped short of going all the way at her insistence. When her church friends confronted her she became very defensive.

1. If you were her friend what would you do?
2. Would you write to her parents?
3. If you were Penelope could you overcome the temptation? how?

Case 3

Marty attended his uncles funeral where the Taoist monk was performing the usual death rituals. He was invited to participate by taking the hell notes and paper cars to be offered in a burnt offering to the deceased and other idols located at the site. He was also asked to put on the black mourning outfit with the whitish cloth on his left arm. He was also asked to take up the joss sticks and shake them in a short prayer for the deceased. He had a whole group of church members with him at the time some of whom had Taoists backgrounds as well.

1. Is there a stumbling block principle here?
2. How can Mary avoid being a stumbling block to his church mates and yet not offend his relatives?
3. What should he do?

Case 4

Larry was visiting with his old school friends who were not Christian. They were having dinner and it came to ordering wine for the dinner. Larry had no problems ordering the wine but he knew that his old school mates had other Christian friends from school that did not drink at all. As he took up the wine list he saw raised eyebrows from a few of his friends and an awkward silence for a while. The rest of his friends carried on chatting as usual. The meal was at a Chinese restaurant and some of his Muslim friends were present as well but they were kind enough to say that it was alright for him to order pork although they did not seem overly enthusiastic about the prospect of sitting in the same table as someone having pork.

1. What should Larry do in this case?