

1 Corinthians

Wisdom & Unity

Meeting the demands of
Christian life and living



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Starting where
you are:

Any questions?



Wisdom for a Balanced Life – part 3 of 3

1 Corinthians 10:1-11:1 ***Experience balanced by responsibility***

Paul's argument to carefully balance Christian liberty continues with an illustration of early Hebrew ancestors. Through these ancestral experiences with God, Christians in Corinth are called to embrace the responsibility to steward their liberty for one another's welfare and for God's glory.

Paul underscores the need to allow experiences to inform and inspire communal responsibility.

Outline:

- 10:1-13 □ Lessons from your examples
- 10:14-22 □ Learn from your examples
- 10:23 - 11:1 □ Live as examples

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Don't waste your experiences!

Allow life lessons to inform your responsibility to others.



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Lessons from Your Examples (10:1-13)

• **The dangers of disqualification (1-5)**

- The people who can be disqualified (1-4)
- The pattern of becoming disqualified (5)

• **The deeds that precede disqualification (6-10)**

- Evil desires □ *kakós*: lust after evil (bad, wrong, wicked)
- Idolatrous people □ *eidōlolatrēs*: a covetous person (known by their practices)
- Sexual immorality □ *porneuō*: “(neither) let us commit fornication” (through the prostitution of oneself to another nor to the end of idol worship)
- Testing God □ *ekpeirazō christos*: “(neither) let us tempt Christ” (see Ex 17:1-7)
- Grievous complaints □ “(neither) mumble” (conferring in secret, discontented murmuring; see Ex 16:2-3; Num 14:2, 36)

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Lessons from Your Examples (10:1-13 cont'd.)

- **Hope that counters disqualification (11-13)**

- The examples of those who precede you.
- The commonality of your tests.
- The faithfulness of God.
 - Revealed by what God allows
 - Revealed through your tests
 - Revealed by your endurance

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Learn from your examples (10:14-22)

- **Respond to your examples (14)**

- Preserve yourself by acknowledging and running away from the danger of idolatry.
- Sometimes the best response is to do the opposite of what you know someone else did.

- **Reason guided by your practices (15-17)**

- The fellowship of Communion.
- The fellowship of unity.

- **Reflect on your purpose for gathering (18-22)**

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Live as Examples (10:23 – 11:1)

This section concludes the case Paul makes (8:1 – 10:22). The bottom line is that whatever is done should be done to/for the glory of God—not for one’s own benefit or another’s detriment.

In what ways might we live as examples?

- “Look out for” other people (24-25)
- Liberate your conscience, consider the Lord’s blessings (26-27)
- Care for “their” conscience by considering “their” maturity (28-30)
- Glorify God without offending other people (31)
- Follow the lead provided by good examples (11:1)

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Next Steps:

- Reflect on today's lesson
- Pray about today's lesson
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:2-34



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