

Monday, March 23 ~ He is My Everything ~ 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

In 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1 Paul tells us to flee from idols while reminding us that we will live among temptation and sin but as long as we make choices for the greater glory of God, He will support us. What is your threatening idol? There are so many things in today's world that can take us (and our time) away from God. What are you doing when you should be praying and growing your relationship with God?

In 2020 we find ourselves constantly presented with pressures and comparisons that, while I'm sure existed years ago, the social media craze has thrown in our faces more than ever. I recently heard a statistic that the average high school teen suffers from a level of anxiety that would have institutionalized adults in the 1950s.

As a young mom, I feel the expectation is higher than ever to be "everyone's everything," which can sometimes leave me with little time (and a lot of anxiety) for my own faith. I put this pressure on myself, sometimes getting too wrapped up and super busy trying to check all of the boxes to "do it all." This "list" can become my idol and distract me from what is most important - that God is my everyone, and that should be good enough for everyone. This Lenten season I am taking TIME to prioritize my faith and grow with God. I want to take God's lead to say no to some of the (all really great) things people ask me to do for the mere reason that they are taking me away from my time with God. Thank you for the reminder - I'm guessing I'm not the only one who needed it!

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Idol Feasts and the Lord's Supper

¹⁴Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

¹⁸Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? ¹⁹Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. ²²Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

The Believer's Freedom

²³"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

²⁵Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."^[a]

²⁷If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. ²⁹I am referring to the other person's conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another's conscience? ³⁰If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

³¹So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³²Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— ³³even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. **11** ¹Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.