

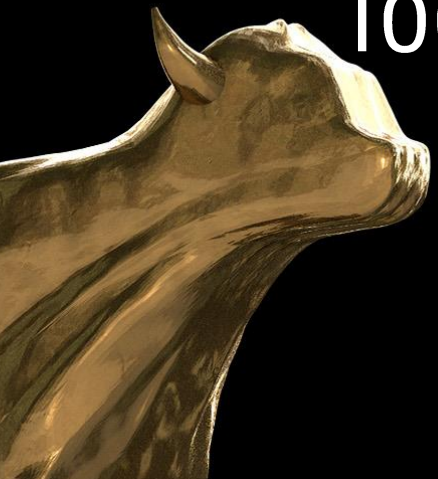
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BROKEN BODY

1 CORINTHIANS

A History of Idolatry

“For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink.”



A History of Idolatry

“For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.”

1 Corinthians 10:1-5



“One of Paul’s main aims in this letter is to get the Corinthians to realize where they are on God’s timetable. They are like actors who have blundered onto the stage in the middle of a performance and don’t even know which act they’re in. They need to discover what has happened so far, how the plot is working out and how the people who played these characters in previous acts managed to get things wrong.”

N.T. Wright



“Now these things took place as examples for us to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things.”

1 Corinthians 10:6



“Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.”

1 Corinthians 10:7-10





THE SIN OF IDOLATRY

◆ EXODUS 32:1-14 ◆

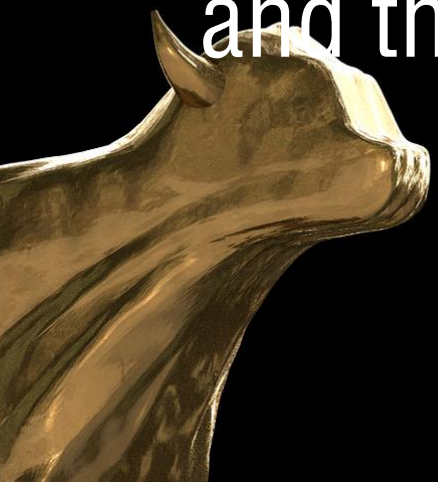
“Then the Lord said to Abram, ‘Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.’”

Genesis 15:12-14



“Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then?

That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?”



1 Corinthians 10:18-22

The Experience of Idolatry

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:11-13



“Idolatry happens beneath the level of action;
it happens on the level of appetite and desire.”

Stephen Um



“Whenever we take a created thing and put it to use in such a way as to meet a need or fulfill a desire that only the Creator can ultimately fulfill, we are committing idolatry.”

Stephen Um



“You may have a full, devout set of doctrinal beliefs. You may be trying very hard to believe and obey God. However, what is your real, daily salvation? What are you really living for and depending on? What is your real, not your professed god? You see, when you pray and work for something and you don’t get it and you respond with explosive anger or deep despair, then you may have found your real god.”

Tim Keller



Questions to Ask Ourselves:

1. What is our desire pointing at?
2. What is our affection pulling us toward?
3. What is our end goal?



The Cure for Idolatry

“Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”

I Corinthians 10:14



**When we are called by God to flee something, we are
also immediately called to pursue something else.**





“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

