

14 September

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 1 Corinthians – week 17

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what the Word of God says about idolatry?
2. Who is the Rock mentioned in v.4b? (**The Rock was Christ.**)
3. What are Paul's words in v.5? (**With most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown / scattered in the wilderness.**)
4. What is Paul's warning to us in v.7? (**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.**)

 Let's go deeper

5. Why did God create us according to Genesis 1:26? (**To worship God as Creator. God said, let us make man in our image after our likeness**)
6. Because of sin what happened to mankind according to Romans 1:25? (**They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.**)
7. What is Paul's warning to the believers in v.12? (**Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.**)
8. What is Paul's encouragement to the church in v.14? (**Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.**)

 Let's apply this

9. 1 Corinthians 10:6 – 7, 14; Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 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. **v.14,** Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

- How would you define idolatry?
- Why are we so easily drawn to idolatry?
- How can we resist idols in our lives?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart for any idols?

SUMMARY:

Week 17 – Resisting idols

Read: 1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 14

vv.1 – 4; These were in the days of Moses and the book of Exodus, when God's people were liberated from slavery and bondage in Egypt and they were brought through the Red sea, led by the Lord.

vv.5 – 10; Most of the people didn't really love God and died because of their sin. This is a strong warning, we can be in church and see other people worship and obey God, but our own hearts are set on doing evil and loving it. We must not think that God is asleep or not paying attention or that He doesn't care about sin.

vv.11 – 14; Whatever temptation comes, there is always a way to get out of that possibility of sin and to honour God in the decisions we make. Paul tells the believers to keep themselves away from idols. Idolatry is the root cause of all sins.

Sin in our lives is like fruit hanging off a bad tree and the cause of that bad fruit is the root of idolatry. Paul doesn't just say, "stop sinning." He says pay attention to the idolatry in your life that leads you to sin.

Why are we so easily drawn to idolatry?

Genesis 1:27 – 28, tells us that we were made to worship, glorify, honour and enjoy God. We were made to worship and what happened is that Adam and Eve sinned in Genesis 3, and now we are born with a sinful nature, but we are still created to worship. The result being that we keep worshipping, but we worship created things (see Romans 1:24 – 25), rather than God our Creator.

The English word, for worship comes from Latin which means, to ascribe worth to. Meaning whatever or whoever is most important to you, you give your time, energy, money, devotion, hopes to that person or thing. That is your idol.

Idolatry is usually the pursuit of something that is good. Idolatry is enslavement to something we love, good things but they can become elevated to the place where they are gods who rule over us. How can we find out if we have idols in our lives? What is your greatest fear? What do you long for most passionately or what motivates you? Where do you go for comfort? What do you complain about most? What angers or frustrates you most? What do you want to control most? We choose idols that we think will make us happy.

How can we resist idols?

We recognise that our heart is prone towards idolatry. Once you recognise idols in your life, then you repent (turn) away from them. You replace the worship of idols, with the worship of Jesus Christ. Rejoice and worship God. We find our idol, break it, replace it, and worship Jesus.