

# Messy

Part Twelve: *best for others*

July 24, 2022

Two weeks ago, we learned from Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter eight that a Christian is to never do anything that could cause another Christian to sin. Then last Sunday, we learned from Paul in chapter nine that a Christian must exercise self-control to limit their rights and accomplish what God wants them to accomplish.

- **In chapter ten, Paul tells Christians to do what is best for others.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Paul warns us that God will judge us if we do not control ourselves. Vs. 1-10

God supplied the Israelites with manna and water from a rock when they wandered in the wilderness. But the Israelites were ungrateful for God's supernatural provision. They complained, worshipped idols, and engaged in sexual immorality with the pagan nations around them, and they were judged by God for their disobedience. These things were written down for us in the Old Testament to teach us that we need to practice self-control.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Paul tells us overconfident Christians fall into sin Vs. 12

Overconfident Christians believe they are stronger than they are. They wrongly believe they have enough wisdom, strength, and resources to overcome Satan and his temptations.

3<sup>rd</sup> – Paul promises that God will provide a way for us to overcome temptation. Vs. 13

1 John 2:15-16 says Satan tempts all people with physical pleasures, material possessions, and prideful achievements, but God is faithful to provide a way for us to escape Satan's temptations.

4<sup>th</sup> – Paul commands us to flee from idolatry. Vs. 14-22

Some of the Christians in the church at Corinth thought they had the liberty to attend feasts dedicated to idols, but Paul tells them Christians should not fellowship with idol worshippers. Idol worship is demonic and fellowshiping with idol worshipers makes God jealous (1 Corinthians 10:19-22).

5<sup>th</sup> – Paul tells us to seek to build others up. Vs. 23-24

The word translated *beneficial* at the end of verse 23 means "to build up." Paul is telling Christians that although we have freedom to do anything that is not directly forbidden in Scripture, we need to make sure we only do actions that build others up (Philippians 2:3-4).

6<sup>th</sup> – Paul tells us to live for the glory of God. Vs. 31-11:1

Christians have freedom to do as they want. But our freedom must be balanced by love. For it is love – not knowledge that strengthens the church. Our actions should not prevent an unbeliever from coming to Christ, or a weaker Christian from growing in Christ. *How do we live by love?* We imitate Christ!

*The lesson for today is...*

**Christians are to imitate Christ and do what is best for others.**