

1 Cor. 10:14-22 "Sharing in the Body and Blood"

For the Children: It is hard to be friends with two people who hate each other. If you try to please one, you will probably upset the other one. It is impossible to please both God and the devil, for the devil is completely against God and hates Him. If you try to please both God and Satan, the Lord will not be pleased. You cannot serve two masters. Those who sit at the Lord's Table must be those who are committed to serving only God.

Questions: What did Jesus mean by saying we cannot serve two masters? How does understanding the Lord Jesus' death make us want to serve only God? How can our sins affect others in the church?

Introduction:

First Point: Sharing in the OT Table

- 1) Participation in the OT Sacrificial System: The OT sacrificial system involved the idea of "table fellowship" with God, under His peace, protection and provision. But in order for sinners to draw close to God in this way, provision had to be made to cover their sins. Hence the table fellowship involves a covenant – it is a covenant-meal; and sacrifices that pointed ahead to Christ's removal of sin. See Ex. 24:9-11. The OT sacrificial system was also seen as a sharing in a common table by God's people and priests
- 2) No Light Matter: To participate without the proper preparations could be fatal. How much worse to bring such sins as idolatry into the worship of God, as Israel did eg at Baal-Peor. This provokes His jealousy

Second Point: Sharing in the Lord's Table

- 1) Fulfillment in Christ: Christ fulfills what the OT sacrifices stood for. He has fulfilled all the covenant-obligations for us; He has paid for our covenant-breaking; He has won all covenant-blessings; and achieved for us all that "table-fellowship" meant in the OT – peace between God and sinners. The NT puts this in terms of sharing in Christ's body and blood – His sacrifice – in union and fellowship with Him
- 2) United with Each Other: Through Christ we are also united in fellowship with each other around the Table. That is symbolized by the sharing of the "one loaf" of bread and of the cup. This has implications for how we regard and treat one another before, during and after the Supper

Third Point: Not Sharing in the Idol's Table

- 1) Idol-Meals in OT and NT: Sometimes God's people joined in idol-meals – ritual eating and drinking in honour of the pagan gods – Israel at Baal-Peor in the OT (Num. 25) and some of the Corinthians in the NT. In Corinth, some thought that what we did with the body didn't matter, so long as the heart was right. Others were scared of being seen as too different from the world. While it is true that the idol-gods do not exist, the demons that lie behind idolatry are very real. Moreover, even outward participation in idolatry is a heart-matter, because it is disobedience to God's express commandments. See Mt. 15:16-20 and Josh. 23:7
- 2) Important Implications: Participation in the "table of demons" cannot be combined with participation in the Lord's Table. This means that unbelievers who serve Satan may not attend the Supper. Neither may believers who are willfully serving Satan in some areas ie those who refuse to repent of their sins. To ignore this not only dishonours the Lord's name, but also does harm to other believers who share together in the Table-fellowship

Conclusion:

