

IDOLATRY

Part 2b

The Attitude of Idolatry

1st Co. 10:1-21

INTRODUCTION

I. THE CORINTHIANS WERE WARNED AGAINST IMITATING THE IDOLATRY OF ISRAEL.

A. The activities of Israel in the wilderness typified behavior God did not desire. Vs.6

1. The things they did were “examples” of the type of behavior that shouldn’t be imitated.
 - a) The Greek word for “example” is tupos -- “*a moral pattern*” -- Thomas Green lexicon. Heb. 8:5 (the things in the earthly tabernacle were an example of that in the heaven tabernacle)
 - b) There are positive examples of behavior to imitate in the New Testament. Phil. 3:17 (of the life of the apostle Paul); 1st Thess. 1:17 (of the lives of the Thessalonians)
 - c) There are negative examples of behavior to not imitate given to believers in the New Testament.
2. The activities of Israel “were” (aor. Pass. ind.) -- *were made* our examples.
 - a) The word “were” is from ginomai which used in the passive notes someone causing a thing to be so. Cf. Heb. 11:34 (Old Testament saints were made strong to fight); Matt. 11:23 (seen in the possibility of the works being done in Sodom)
 - b) God allow Israel to experience the behavior in the wilderness in order that believers today would have an example of what God does not desire.

B. Paul defines the purpose of Israel’s behavior being made an example for believers in this dispensation. Vs. 6

1. “To the intent” (towards or looking to)
2. “Lust after evil things” -- *a phrase that can be used to define idolatry.*
 - a) “Lusts” is the word epithumia which is to have *a strong desire; a craving*. Cf. 1st John 2:16-17 (the World System provides lust for its things that can lead to idolatry)
 - b) “Evil things” is the plural form of the Greek word kakos -- *things that are lacking in character that appeals to the individual*. Cf. 1st Tim. 6:10 (money); Rom. 13:3 (rulers punish this type of evil); Ja. 1:13 (God does not tempt individuals with this type of evil)

II. THE ATTITUDE OF IDOLATRY IS SEEN IN AN OVER EMPHASIS UPON CELEBRATION. 1st Co. 10:7

- A. Paul described Israel's attitude while Moses was upon the mountain. Ex. 32:6
1. "The people" -- is a phrase used most often of Israel in the New Testament. Cf. Matt. 2:4; 26:3; Acts 12:11
 2. The term "sat down" -- "kathizo" (aor. Act. ind.) -- a phrase used in Scripture as **a posture of celebration** -- in that context of a golden calf. Cf. Est. 3:15 (of Haman's celebration); Jud. 19:6 (in preparation for a journey)
 3. The use of the phrase "eat and drink" is used of those who engage in drunken celebration. Matt. 24:49
- B. The phrase "rose up to play" is used to indicate idolatry.
1. The Greek word for "play" is paizo which is defined by Louw-Nida lexicon as **"to engage in an activity for the sake of amusement and/or recreation; is probably (reference) to dancing, but some scholars interpret in this context as a euphemism for sex."** (hapox -- Only N.T. use)
 2. The Hebrew word is letsachek which is used in the Hebrew as:
 - a) **"A word of ominous import, which seems to imply here fornicating and adulterous intercourse; and in some countries the verb to play is still used precisely in this sense. In this sense the original is evidently used."** -- Adam Clarke Commentary
 - b) **"Joke; to play; to muse oneself; to fondle a woman; to play around with."** -- Holladay lexicon
 3. The context of Scripture records tsachaq 12 times noting predominantly to laugh or to mock. cdf. Gen. 17:17; 18:12 (used of Abraham and Sarah laughing over the pronouncement they would have a son); Gen. 39:14, 17 (used in sexual connotation); Jd. 16:25 (of amusement)

III. THE SOURCE BEHIND ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE OF IDOLATRY WAS AN ATTITUDE OF STIFFNECKEDNESS AND ADULTERY. Ex. 32:9

- A. The mindset that caused the Israelites to serve idols is identified as "stiffneckedness". Ex. 32:9
1. The Hebrew word qasheh which is used in the Old Testament of those who are **obstinate; hard of heart; dug in; stubborn.** -- K.D.J. cf. Is. 48:4; Ez. 3:7 (used of Israel.)
 2. "Stiffnecked" is used in the New Testament of those who are in opposition against the Holy Spirit. Cf. Acts 7:51 cf. Is. 63:10 (Israel rebelled against and vexed)
- B. The mindset of idolatry is seen as that of an adulterer. Ex. 34:15-16
1. The Hebrew phrase "go a whoring" is zannah -- **to commit adultery with one other than whom they are committed to.** -- Deut. 31:16

- a) Israel was warned not to do with the gods of the inhabitants of the land.
Ex. 34:15
 - b) The Israelites committed whoredom with the Moabites. Num. 25:1
2. Israel's adultery was prophesied to occur after Moses's departure. Deut. 31:16

CONCLUSION