**BCM Bible Study: Nov. 13/14, 2019**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-11:1: Imitation**

Looking Back:

* Start off by following up from the challenge from last week. It was: “In an attempt to become all things to all people, identify someone (a non-Christian) with whom you want to connect more. What would it look like for you to step into their world and connect with them on something that they care about?”
	+ How did this go for you? Did you run into any difficulty?

Standing Firm: Last week we considered how 1 Cor. 9:24-27 related to chapter 9. Now let’s read it again to consider how it relates to chapter 10. **Read 1 Cor. 9:24-10:5**.

* What is Paul saying in these verses? Ask someone to summarize.
	+ **Note:** There are LOTS of potential tangents here. Throughout this study, try to avoid debates about baptism and the Lord’s Supper and make sure folks understand the overall flow. We will discuss the Lord’s Supper at length in ch.11. The events that Paul is alluding to are the Israelites walking through the Red Sea to be delivered from slavery and God’s provision of manna (Ex. 16) and water from a rock. (Ex.17, Num. 20:11) Don’t overthink v.4. The point is that God was constantly present with them, providing for their needs. There may be a play on words here from the common Old Testament reference to God as the “Rock.”
* In light of what is described in vv.1-4, why is it surprising that many of the Israelites turned away from and were disobedient to God?
* **Read 1 Cor. 10:6-13.** What is Paul’s warning in these verses?
	+ Paul says that we will be tempted to disobedience and idolatry. Let’s look at some verses that reveal the people’s heart as they disobeyed God. **Read Exodus 32:1-6, Numbers 21:4-5**. What was the mindset of the Israelites that led them to disobedience and idolatry?
	+ Though the people saw miraculous signs and were provided for in miraculous ways, whenever things started going badly, they turned away from God, either doubting his goodness or attempting to provide for themselves. Can you relate to this feeling? When are you tempted to take life into your own hands or doubt the goodness of God’s ways?
* In what ways do you typically try to avoid falling into temptation? Are these methods successful?
	+ Your temptation is not only common, but also is not something that is too strong for you. How do these truths help you know how to fight temptation?
	+ **Read Hebrews 4:14-16**. How can these verses help in fighting temptation?

Combating Spiritual Arrogance: **Read 1 Cor. 10:14-22**

* What issue is Paul addressing here?
	+ It seems that some are participating in idol worship. Their argument is that there are no gods, so they are free to do this. (See 1 Cor. 8:4) How does Paul combat this kind of thinking by comparing what they are doing with the Lord’s Supper?
* We do not typically participate in the kind of idol worship that Paul is talking about. However, to worship something means to give it all of your attention and devotion. Whatever you worship will shape and orient your life. If your object of worship is not God, this is idolatrous worship.
	+ What are some things that can become objects of worship (primary attention and devotion) for you? In what way does this impact your life?
	+ In ancient times, idol worship had to do with wanting to take control of the events of your life by manipulating the gods. Do you ever fall into this sort of mindset? What kind of actions result from this kind of thinking?
	+ The devil and demons can be at work in everyday life. **Read Eph. 6:10-17**. What does the armor of God teach us about the devil’s schemes?
* It seems that the Corinthians who fell into idol worship had become presumptuous. They were participating in rituals like the Lord’s Supper and had seen supernatural power at work in and around them (just like the Israelites). Paul is warning us that we should not become spiritually arrogant – this mindset will lead us astray.
	+ What are some things that can lead to spiritual arrogance?
	+ When God asked the Israelites to obey Him and be loyal to Him alone, he frequently reminded them of this: **Read Deut. 5:6**. In what ways has God saved and rescued you? Why is remembering these realities helpful in times of temptation and spiritual arrogance?

Imitation: **Read 1 Cor. 10:23-11:1**

* Paul closes this section by recapping the principles he has been unpacking since ch. 8. What is the general outlook and posture of his life?
	+ In light of this, what does it mean to glorify God with all that you do? (v. 31)
	+ Paul says that living this kind of life means imitating Christ and other people who are following Him.
		- Who do you know that imitates Christ well? What is their life like?
		- What would it look like to imitate Christ? Time permitting, consider Phil. 2:1-13.

Challenge: Throughout the week, consider how you can better glorify God with your life. In other words, in both the small and big things, how can you life be more geared towards others coming to know Christ?