

**“Dinner With The Devil”**  
**1 Corinthians 10:14-22**  
**Jerry Grey 2023 WBC**

**Introduction:** If you could have dinner with any two people in the world, other than Jesus, who would it be? Choose one bible character and one other person. Take a second now and make a good choice. What interesting character from all of history would you have dinner with? Who is your favorite bible character?

That would be a great dinner. I would probably eat my dinner with Spurgeon and Paul the apostle.

Now let me ask you this. Would you eat dinner with:

- The Devil?
- A Demon?
- An Imp?
- A Murderer?
- A Molester?
- A Robber?

**Read The Text:**

What has Paul said? Nothing unholy about the meat offered to idols, but if you participate at the dinner, or sacrifice at the pagan altar, you are having dinner with the Devil. What are the behaviors we participate in that are quintessentially demonic. I believe that if we look closely into our actions, we might find some things that are pretty scary. We might be eating dinner with the devil.

In verse 7 of this chapter, we read that the first description of Israel was that they were idolaters.

**1 Cor 10:7-8**

7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry."

NIV

The nation was punished with death. They wandered in the wilderness until the old group died. They were sexually immoral and grumbled all the time. 23,000 people died in the wilderness from snake bites. Since the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. the Jewish people have not been idol worshippers. Prior to Messiah coming to earth, God beat this sin out of the Jews. They may be lost today but they are not idolaters. God would not let His people be idolaters at the incarnation.

Paul continues his arguments and theology lesson concerning meat offered to idols. Paul has spoken of our Christian freedom and has warned us not to let our freedom in Christ get us into trouble and definitely not make us idolaters. You may find it appropriate to eat the meat, but don't do it in the pagan temple.

Wiersbe says this... *"Two extremes must be avoided; Practicing license in the name of Christian freedom, and being so fussy that we cannot live in a real world and make rational decisions. When you seek to edify others and glorify the Lord, you will know what to do."*

Not License, Not Legalism, but Liberty. But be careful with your liberty that you do not end up eating with the Devil.

**1 Cor 8:9**

9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

KJV

### **Gal 5:13**

13 For, brethren, ye have been **called unto liberty**; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

KJV

### **1 Peter 2:15-16**

15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

KJV

### **2 Peter 2:19**

19 While they (Infidels) promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

KJV

Our context is still in the middle of “food,” chapters 8-10. Paul is still in the arena of protecting our witness. Chapter 8 dealt with this extensively. God knows how much temptation we can endure before we fail and harm our witness.

Paul has stated that to eat the meat that is offered to idols is no big deal, but he cautions that some behaviors would be idol worship. Don't take your freedom too far.

**MacArthur-** “They were free to attend pagan functions but were not free to participate in false worship.”

Let me make this statement... “That excludes me from even some church services. I would never sit under Andy Stanley's teaching; He's a heretic.” I would never worship with Joel Osteen; He's a heretic and an apostate. I would never worship with Kenneth Copeland or Paula White. Benny Hinn is Satanic. I would witness

to them, and rebuke them, but never worship with them. We have some leaders in the SBC I would not worship with.

The last verse before we came to this section reveals this truth.

**1 Cor 10:13**

13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

NIV

The context has not changed. Our first verse in this section is verse 14. “Therefore,” what? Therefore, since God has made a way out of temptation... flee.

**1 Cor 10:14**

14 Therefore, my dear friends, **flee** from idolatry.

NIV

**Verse 14:**

**Greek: Flee- φευγω**— What part of flee do we not get? To run away, vanish, shun, escape. This is pretty clear.

We are not in the habit of running from anything. Our problem is that we see how close to the fire we can actually get without sinning. The heart of man is never satisfied. Our heart is desperately wicked.

**Jer 17:9**

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

KJV

**Jer 17:9**

9 The heart is deceitful above all things,

and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?  
ESV

**Jer 17:9**

9 "Nothing can hide its evil as well as the human mind.  
It can be very sick,  
and no one really understands it.  
Easy-to-Read Version

This is why we are to flee and that we are not to drag a weaker brother into the fray. Run for your life. Flee, is a straight forward message. If it can cause you to stumble, get away.

**Illustration:** A new Christian's book, I bought and read to use in a new Christians class, was an awesome book, except for one page. In the opening of the book, the author used an illustration to encourage the reader to be passionate about discipleship. Here is his illustration:

"Anyone passionate in any subject will seek to learn more and more about the subject. People who are passionate about wine become students of wine. They learn about the art of wine making, different varieties in different climates, soil nutrients, fermentation, barreling, pairing, and proper testing techniques. They love the taste, but the taste is greatly enhanced by their knowledge" (Now That I am a Christian, Patton. Page 11).

Now let me ask you, is that a good illustration for a new Christian's book? I say this in truth. The man that I had led to Christ that needed disciplining was an alcoholic. Could I, in good conscience, give this book to that man? The rest of the book was really good. But if I gave this man the idea that this Christian book, that I gave him, allowed him to get close to the fire, I am participating in his down fall. I can't do that. The author could

have talked about gardening, golf, painting, or a thousand other hobbies, why use an illustration about alcohol in a new believer's book?

### **Scripture says flee.**

#### **James 1:13-15**

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

NIV

**Illustration: Exegete verses 23-33.** Here is the illustration Paul used to explain this section. Let the Word speak for itself. I can't do a better job than Paul.

### **Bible study notes from 1 Corinthians chapter 10:23-33 2003:**

Do Not Overlook The Importance Of Your Influence vv. 23-33. Paul uses these remaining verses to recapitulate what he has said in Chapter 8. To be reminded is a good thing. Repetition is key to success.

#### **A few practical Reminders:**

- Live to please others vv. 23-24. Protect the other person's conscience v. 24.
- Do not be overly legalistic or fussy vv. 25-27... if invited to a feast, eat what is before you. If there is a Christian Brother there that is bothered, take into account his weakness. It is better to go hungry than cause others to sin.
- Live for God's glory, even if it means sacrifice vv. 29-31... Paul anticipated an argument. Some may say, "Why do I have to alter my behavior when I have thanked God for this

blessing. Why should I yield to the weaker conscience?”  
 Yielding to a weaker brother’s conscience **does** glorify God!  
 Do all that you do for God’s glory, v.31.

- Live to win Souls vv. 32-33 ... if the sole purpose in life of the believer is to win souls, the questions that we have concerning behavior will take care of themselves. If you do not alter your behavior for those around you, you prove that your concern is for yourself and not the weaker vessels in your life.
- The lost man’s salvation is most important, vv. 32, 33.
- Consider Jesus and the woman at the well. He overlooked the fact that she was a woman, a Samaritan, racially impure, and was more concerned with her soul. Jesus deliberately went through Samaria for His divine appointment.

**Illustration:** Brother Andrew.

**Verse 15:** Paul called the Corinthians sensible. He asked them to think about” or “judge” what he was saying. This word is **phronimos**, to be sagacious or intelligent. They had mental acuity. So judge what I say or call it into question. Have a cautious character. Paul says to them, “Think it over; you are suppose be smarter than you look.” Hehe!

Paul says, “you know that idolatry has been a problem with the Jews; therefore, stay away from temptation. You are sensible so think about it.”

Idiolatry is reducing God down to a man size stature. We make God like we are and rob Him of His power, authority, and sufficiency. That’s not sensible (note v. 22b). Idolatry is replacing God with something we like better. **Krino**... judge what I say, Paul says, If we would *think* or *judge* things through, we would come to the right conclusions about sin.

In Matt. 4 Jesus was tempted in three areas. Jesus used scripture for His answers.

- **Appetites**- Bread. Use your power for personal gain.
- **Pride**- Make yourself a spectacle. Take a short to the throne. Cheat. Get a following from miracles. Toss yourself off the temple.
- **Materialism**- False worship. Satan said, “Worship me and I will give you all this that you see.”

What was it that took Adam and Eve down? They had everything in the Garden they could ever have wanted. Was is necessity? Was it desire? No! They had a perfect environment in which to live. **Curiosity got them.** Things that you have never tasted, touched, or felt are the problem makers. The “whys” of life get us. The “unknowns” captivate us. Man’s heart is never satisfied. Man can have everything he needs and he will seek more.

**Prov 27:20**

20 Death and Destruction are never satisfied,  
and neither are the eyes of man.

NIV

**Ecccl 5:10**

10 Whoever loves money never has money enough;  
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.

This too is meaningless.

NIV (**Professional Athletes**)

**Ecccl 6:7**

7 All man's efforts are for his mouth,  
yet his appetite is never satisfied.

NIV

**Verse 16: Paul illustrates his theology for us!**

Paul speaks of a Christian ceremony just like the pagans have. We still have them today. Paul compares the Lord's cup to the pagans rituals and idolatry. I would assume that if I see you taking the Lord's supper at Woodlake Baptist that you are a believer. Correct? If I see you going into a pagan temple, I would also assume that you are a pagan.

Our behavior reveals the truth. Just as there is no spirit in the meat offered to idols, there is no need to believe in transubstantiation in our ceremony. The pagans are wrong, and the Catholics are too. There is a difference though. By participating in pagan rituals you can invite demons into your life and even be indwelt by them. We, however, know that one is not allowed at the table of the Lord until he is born again. Christ indwells the believer by way of the Holy Spirit, not the elements.

The word here for cup is **poterion**. We get our word **pottery** from this word. This identification comes from the first Lord's Supper that Jesus had with His disciples. Jesus identified the cup for us so there is not need to speculate what it means. The cup represents that blood of Jesus Christ that was spilled for our cleansing. The cup is the atonement.

### **Luke 22:14-21**

14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

17 After taking the **cup (Poterion)**, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. 18 For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

19 And he took **bread (Artos)**, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in my blood**, which is poured out for you.

NIV

Jesus has identified for us the two, and only two, ordinances of the church.

Now look at the text (v.16). The word **communion** or **sharing** is in the text. The NIV says **participation**. The NASU says **sharing**. The ESV says **participation**. The CEV says **sharing**. The KJV says **communion**. What does the actual text say? What does the original say?

\* **κοινωνία**— This is the word for **fellowship**. The Lord's supper is a communion of fellowship. That's why we consume it together as a body. The reason we do things the way we do them at WBC is not out of the clear blue sky and not because it is the traditional ways of men. There is theology and purpose behind what we do here. Communion is a church ordinance because we do it together. Baptism is done before the church because it is a body celebration and pictures the gospel of Christ just as communion does.

**Why is Paul using this illustration?** Paul says, *mind your witness*. If I see you in the pagan temple participating in their rituals, I will assume you are a pagan. Paul asks the question.

**?How can you eat at the table with the Devil and then come into the house of God and participate with the body?**

- The Lord's table and baptism are *THE* two ordinances of the church. For an ordinance to be an ordinance, it must picture or illustrate the gospel. Eating bread, drinking juice, and going under water, does not save you. These are symbolic of the theology of the gospel message. The broken body of Jesus and the blood of Christ are both pictured in the elements of the table and in immersion.
- You are identified with Jesus through the cup and the water. The cup, the bread, and the water says that, as far as we are capable of knowing, that we are in full communion with God and our brothers and sisters. This is a ministry of *participation*.
- When we participate we are saying that there is nothing inconsistent with our witness for Jesus as we approach the table.
- The Table of the Lord is a table of thanksgiving. Look at these words again.

### **Greek: Notice the word blessing and bless.**

#### **1 Cor 10:16**

16 The cup of **blessing** which we **bless**, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

KJV

Would you like to guess what these words are?

- **εὐλογίας** and **εὐλογεω**— Both refer to our English word **eulogy**. Two words are put together to form this word. **“Good”** and **“word.”** A **eulogy** is to give a good word. This is to bless someone. This is to be thankful. The Eucharist is a thanksgiving service for the elements of the gospel... the body and blood of Jesus.

**Verse 17:** This verse has an often-overlooked word in it. The word is the cardinal number **one**. The Greek word is a common word **εις (heis)**. Paul refers to the body as **one**. If there is only one bread and one cup and we all share in that identity, we are one body.

The teaching is this... If we are all connected, then our actions affect the entire body. The Lord's supper is a body ordinance that reminds us that we are connected to Christ and each other. That being said, we must know that we have given up our personal rights for obedience to Christ and the other members of the body. If eating meat offends, I will not eat meat in your presence.

**Bro Jerry's Translation:** *"I speak to people that are sensible and wise. Flee from idolatry. The good word or the cup of eulogy equals fellowship in the body due the blood and body of Jesus Christ. We all identify with Jesus, and therefore, identify with each other. We are one loaf."*

**Verse 18:** The Levite and priest were commanded to eat portions of the sacrifices. Many of the offerings were given to the Lord but fed the priest's families as well. The Levites didn't get an allotment of land, so this was God's way of taking care of those who cared for the temple. Portions were offered to God and burned on the altar; the other portions were consumed by the priests. This illustrates how the people were connected. The unity of the people was important. We are, as a body, connected as well.

**Vines:** "I think that many Christians today are dining with demons. They go to the dance on Saturday night and then teach Sunday school the next morning. They put cocktail glasses to their lips during the week and then rejoice in the shed blood of Jesus Christ on Sunday. The Bible says that whatever we do eat, drink, participate in any activity- we must do it for the glory of God.

We could answer many real questions in our lives if we would each ask ourselves, am I doing this for God's glory? In other words, the next time we are ready to read a pornographic novel, we should bow our heads and say, "Oh, Lord, I'm getting ready to use my eyes and my mind to read this book for your glory." The next time we get ready to go to a movie that is displeasing to the Lord, we must pray, "Lord, I want you to know that I'm getting ready to go over there for your glory"? That's foolishness, isn't it! We can't operate that way. We must use common sense and follow the bible's guidelines. We are free to do what we please as long as we can sincerely pray, "Lord I'm going to do this for your glory. I want to be a better Christian because I've done it."

**MacArthur:** "Worshipping the true God in the wrong way is idolatry. Whenever men establish unbiblical forms and rituals and neglect worship from the heart, they set up idols that come between worshippers and God, and even though the forms and rituals are intended to be in his name and for his honor and glory. Any time they adopt worldly practices in church services they set up idols that detract from true worship. Worshipping God in the wrong form is unacceptable worship. For example, the Israelites were idolatrous when they worship the golden calf in the wilderness despite the fact that they intended the image to represent the true God (Exodus 32:1-4).

It's my belief that the text tells us that the people didn't even think the calf represented God. This was true blasphemous idolatry. They cast the One True God out because He was not fast enough for their liking.

Moses was on the mountain getting the Ten Commandments and the people were reveling in paganism. We revel in paganistic culture during the week and worship God on Sunday.

**Verse 19:** Many Christians live in fear of demons, spells, witchcraft, and many other occult practices. Paul tells us that the meat offered to idols was nothing to fear. The meat was not the problem. The meat was offered to idols or demons in a worship service. Don't participate in pagan worship acts.

The illustration in verse 19 doesn't say the gold was evil. The gold in the calf was not evil or spiritual enough to indwell you. The pagan worship around the calf was the problem.

False gods do not exist, but they can lead you into demon worship, and worse, satanic worship. Paul says clearly, "Do not have fellowship or dinner with demons.

Do not have dinner with the Devil. Do not buddy up with the world. Be in the world but not of the world.

The sacrifice has no power or influence. A block of wood will never harm you. Yet, it is offered to demons. Just as our participation and fellowship is offered to God.

We are not to read horoscopes, the stars, astrological signs, and cultic practices. No such thing as a holy witch exists. Do not open the door for Satan to enter. And absolutely do not do it in your worship service. The Corinthians were so confused about worship.

If Satan really wanted to do damage, where would he strike? In worship! He is the prince of the power of the air.

**Verse 21:** To the Christian that's walking at a guilty distance...

**1 Cor 10:21-22**

21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

NIV

Paul is stating facts at this point. These are not suggestions. You cannot live in two places at once. You cannot love two Masters. You cannot drink at the Lord's table and then eat with the Devil.

The Greek word for demons is **diamonions**. The extension refers to a "god" or Satan.

**Greek: Participate or share- metecho.** To eat, participate or take part. It is inconsistent to say one can live on the narrow road and the broad road at the same time.

**Rev 3:16-17**

16 So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

NIV

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

NIV

**2 Cor 5:17**

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

NIV

### Gal 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

NIV

You can't be lukewarm. You are now in the light and out of the dark. You are a new creation. The old is gone. You are dead. Crucified is dead.

**Illustration:** Buster the redneck says, "hey hold my beer and watchis." Buster done killed himself trying to ride Mr. Coy's bull. You go to the funeral. You saw him get buried. Then the next week you go to your friend's house and knock on the door. His mom answers the door. Can Buster come out and fellowship with me? Buster's mom starts to cry. Why are you so cruel? It just cannot happen, why? Cause Buster is dead. Buster cannot live in two worlds. You cannot drink from the Lord's cup and the cup of demons either.

Why does Paul use this illustration of the Lord's table?

**Listen carefully:** This literally confirms, and set the table, for the entire context of this book. Paul is giving us a front row seat for this discipline and correction. This church was disobedient, corrupt, and ungodly. They were confused and ungodly, filled with the world's culture and practices. Paul is teaching them about unity, marriage, worship, spiritual gifts, sex, virgins, our bodies honoring God, and holiness.

Later in the book we will see in chapters 11-14 what Paul thinks about worship, gifts, love, and the chaos that was in their love feasts and Lord's Supper. The overall context of Paul's theology and teaching comes out of the fact that this was not a spiritual church. Gifted, yes, but not spiritual. The church was not spiritual

because they spoke in unknown tongues. They were out of God's will in many respects.

All of this comes from a misunderstanding about mixing the Christian values of a biblical life with the pagan's culture with whom they lived. Two thousand years later, this preacher is doing the same thing. I am fighting the fight and trying to speak to this exact issue. We cannot live in two cultures, and we surely cannot eat dinner with the Devil and expect God's blessings on our lives.

**Illustrations:** John MacArthur talks about getting taken off the air and being dropped by radio stations when he preaches the truth about spiritual gifts. Why? The charismatics stop supporting the radio stations when the truth contradicts their preferences. They want to live in the culture that supports ecstatic gibberish and wild worship services just like the pagans in Corinth. We cannot bring immorality into the church and call it Christian.

If we are united to the culture in any way, we are unequally yokes.

### **2 Cor 6:14-18**

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

17 "Therefore come out from them  
and be separate,  
says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing,  
and I will receive you."

18 "I will be a Father to you,  
and you will be my sons and daughters,  
says the Lord Almighty."  
NIV

### Why is this so important:

**Verse 22** answers that question! We dare not arouse the jealousy of God. We do **not** want God to **not** be on our side.

**Greek: parazeloo**- to provoke to rivalry. **para**- above, against, or with. **zeloo**- desire, jealousy, or zealous. Do not provoke the desire or jealousy of God. He is righteously jealousy of His sheep. He loves you enough to stand against you to protect you.

This means that God will have to fight against you. A great example of this would be Baalam. He didn't obey God and the Lord worked against him. He started to curse, and a blessing came forth.

**Question?** Are you stronger than God? Are you fighting with God? If you are not surrendered to God, you are in the fight of your life. Are you being draw to Christ right now and you are not giving in. Just surrender and be saved. Yield it up. Raise your white flag.

### **Luke 11:23**

23 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters."  
NIV

**Closing:** This is the greatest invitation you will ever get. Change tables right now. Get up and leave the devil right where he is and go to the right dinner.

**Rev 3:20**

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

KJV