

The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

April 2nd, 2023

Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

Dining with Demons (1 Corinthians 10:14-22)

1. Discerning Spiritual Dangers (vv. 14-22):

2. Experiencing Christ's Deliverance:

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper

2. In verse 14, Paul tells the Corinthians to "*flee from idolatry.*" What question is Paul (finally!) addressing (see 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; especially verse 10)? Why did the Corinthians assume that eating in an idol's temple was spiritually harmless (10:19; see 8:4-6)? Why does Paul think it is spiritually dangerous (see vv. 20-21)?

3. Read vv. 16-18. In what sense is communion a "*participation*" in the blood of Christ (v. 16)? What analogy is Paul trying to draw between the Lord's Supper and idol meals (compare vv. 16-18 with vv. 20-21)? What kind of "*participation*" do both share in common? How does this help us understand the spiritual significance of communion?
4. Compare verses 19-22 with Deuteronomy 32:15-22. What parallels does Paul see between Israel's experience in the wilderness and the Corinthians' situation?

Application:

5. Jeff noted that Christians, though secure in Christ, are not immune from spiritual attacks, or demonic influence. Why is this critical for us to keep in mind?
6. Jeff noted a number of ways Satan and demons try to gain access or influence in our lives. Which of these "*open doors*" stood out to you? Where are you most vulnerable/susceptible to spiritual attack?
7. Jeff noted a few ways we can experience Christ's deliverance from spiritual attack. Which of these stood out to you? Why?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?