

**Postcards from Corinth - Part 7**  
**Living Out Gospel Freedom.**  
**1 Cor. 9:24-11:1**  
**June 8, 2025**

**I. PARTICIPATING fully with the GOSPEL. (9:24-10:13)**

- A. Paul GIVES us a METAPHOR. (9:24-27)**
- B. And a LESSON to learn from HISTORY. (10:1-11)**
  - 1. The PROVISION and PRESENCE of God. (10:1-5)**
  - 2. The TEMPTATION to “*set your heart*” ELSEWHERE. (10:6-13)**

Last week Kari painted a picture for us of the immensity and beauty of the Gospel and how that impacted Paul’s view of his own rights and freedoms. This week Paul continues to explore how we live with the truth of the Gospel and the type of freedom that comes with it. Also how there is a tendency to miss the path on this.

- 1. Kid’s Question: What is something that you needed to learn to do that was hard to learn? Was it worth it?
- 2. Where have you seen the provision and presence of God? Is that enough to keep you moving in the right direction since then?

**II. INDICATIONS of an IDOL today. (v.6-10)**

- A. Letting evil DESIRE drive your ACTIONS. (9:27; 10:7-8; Num. 25:1-2)**
- B. DISCONTENT with God’s DIRECTION. (10:9; Num. 21:4-6)**
- C. GRASPING at CONTROL. (10:10; Num 16:41-49)**

Paul refers back to three specific stories from Jewish history to remind this young church that idols can work their way into your life in a variety of ways. The same is true for us today...even if we have entered a relationship with God. But the result of idolatry is always bondage.

- 3. Of the three mentioned (desires, discontent, or wanting control), which is the most tempting for you personally?
- 4. What have you learned about yourself and temptation from your past experiences?
- 5. Can you “train” (9:25) to deal better with temptation? If so how might that look?

**III. Navigating Gospel FREEDOM in a world of IDOLS. (10:11-11:1)**

- A. HUMILITY - This can HAPPEN to ANYONE. (10:12)**
- B. HOPE - YOU are not ALONE in this. (10:13)**
- C. HABITS - What you DO really MATTERS to US. (9:24-27; 10:14-24)**

**D. HAZARD - Even FREEDOM can be an IDOL. (10:23-30)**

**E. HOW - Live for God's GLORY & the GOOD of others. (10:31-11:1)**

Idols look different today than they did back in Corinth and during the time of the Exodus. But they are no less present. In fact, they often are more present and more powerful as they slide into our culture as something normal, something that everyone else is pursuing. How do we walk in the freedom of the Gospel when these idols lurk below the surface of our culture?

6. Which of the “H” words spoke the most directly to your life from this text? Why is that?
7. How much do you really believe that your habits shape “us” and not just you? Why do you say that?
8. Where can you live for God’s glory and the good of others in a specific situation or way in the coming week?