

*Upon What do you Place your Confidence? (I Cor 10)*

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**Introduction:** Misplaced confidence is disastrous in any field.

A. The Bible teaches that overconfidence will lead to a fall. (**Prov 16:18**)

1. Example: The Miami-Alabama 1993 Sugar bowl game.
2. How many businesses have tried to live off it's past?

B. Remember that the second half of this letter deals with questions. (**1 Cor 7:1**)

1. Paul warns both the strong and the weak. Our confidence must be founded in God. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
2. Please consider the consequences of trusting in our past.

“Pride is the only disease that makes everyone sick except the one who has it.”

**I. The Misplaced Confidence of the Israelites. (10:1-5)**

A. The past blessings of the Israelites.

1. **The Cloud.** - God's direction through an angel of God. (**Ex 14:19-20**)
2. **The Sea** - Evidence of their past trust in God and departure from slavery.
3. **Moses** - Their new undisputed leader from God. A new relationship!
4. **Spiritual Food** - Provisions from God.
5. **Spiritual Drink** - All needs met.
6. **Spiritual Rock** - "behind the visible rock there was one invisible Rock."  
(**Deut 32:4, 15, 18**)

B. How could these people fail? They trusted in the wrong “rock,” the “rock” of temporary blessings.

1. Note the sad contrast- "**all**" four times; "**most**" - except Joshua and Caleb.
2. What is a rock? We need to know the difference between the solid and the temporary.
3. Did their past blessings insure their safety? No. they needed to learn what it means to believe. (**Heb 3:19-4:2**)

**II. Sins Which Destroyed the People**

A. Men are no different today. These sins destroyed them because their faith failed.

1. A practice of sin and a practice of faith cannot mix! (**1 John 3:4-10**)
2. Battling these sins while building one's faith in not the same error.
3. Are you choking your faith? Where do you stand?

B. Are these sins a problem for you? (**10:6-10**)

1. **Lusts** (**Num 11:4, 33-34; James 1:14-15**)

2. **Idolatry** (**Ex 32:4**)

a. "Play" (**Ex 32:3-6; 18-19, 25**)

b. "Israel had been released from superstitions of Idolatry but were still attracted by the feasting and gaiety, which were directly designed to provoke passions."

3. **Fornication** - Moab (**Num 25:1-9**)

4. **Tempting God** (**Ex 17:1-2; Mt 4:6-7**)

- a. "Is God your servant boy?"
- b. Many will be surprised in the judgment. (**Mat 7:21-23**)

5. *Murmured* - This is a great weapon against leadership. (**Num 16:41**)

C. What are we then to do? (**10:11-13**)

- 1. What advantages do we have in Christ?
- 2. What is the alternative to Pride? Trust in a living God!

“Pride is to the character like the attic to the house--the highest part and generally the most empty.”

### ***III. The Danger of Idolatrous Feasts. (10:14-22)***

A. Our relationship with God must never be compromised!

- 1. "Flee" (**1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 Cor 6:18**)
  - a. If we will trust God, the Devil will flee! (**Jas 4:7**)
  - b. Why is it that we will not flee?

B. When we partake of the Lord's Supper we are proclaiming a relationship to God! Do you understand the seriousness of this relationship? (**14-17**)

- 1. Communion means fellowship! We are sharing in the benefits and the relationship produced by the death of Christ. He is our head.
- 2. The Lord's Supper can be described as "breaking bread." (**Acts 2:42; 20:7**)
- 3. Just like the marriage relationship, God will not "share" us with Satan. It is one or the other. (**2 Cor 11:2-4; Jer 3:6-10**)

C. Are you loyal to God or Demons? (**18-22**)

- 1. The Corinthians would not frame the question that way! Satan is a great deceiver. Pride would scoff at the question! Not me!
- 2. We are priests in the kingdom of God. We must be holy. (**1 Pt 1:15-16; Heb 12:14**)
- 3. The issue of fellowship is often ignored or minimized. (**2 John 9-11**)

C. The Lord will not share us! (**James 4:4-5**)

### ***IV. How love will respond to the application of these principles. (10:23-33)***

A. I will not do anything that will hurt the cause of Christ!

- 1. What is an expedient? It is a lawful choice that will do the most good.
- 2. What is not an expedient?
  - a. That which has no authority from God.
  - b. That which God has specifically commanded.

B. In this context one is tempting another Christian to violate his conscience. (**Rom 14:23**)

- 1. God places a high value on the conscience. (**Acts 23:1; Titus 1:15**)
- 2. Do we really think about our example before others?

C. What is wrong with the attitude: "Leave me alone, I will do what I wish"?

- 1. If another brother came to you about such a matter would you listen?
- 2. This section may be summed up by one word: love. (**1 Cor 13:4-6**)

**Conclusion:** God will never let us down. Do we trust in Him or ourselves?