

1 Corinthians 10:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

Analysis

Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry—The *dioper* (διόπερ, "wherefore/therefore") draws application from vv. 1-13: because Israel fell into idolatry despite covenant privileges, and because God is faithful to provide escape from temptation, the proper response is clear—**flee** (*pheugete*, φεύγετε, present imperative: "keep fleeing"). Don't linger, negotiate, or rationalize. Run from idolatry as Joseph fled Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:12).

The tender address **my dearly beloved** (*agapētoi mou*, ἀγαπητοί μου) softens the command without diluting it. Paul loves them, which is why he warns urgently. *Eidōlolatrias* (εἰδωλολατρίας, "idolatry") isn't merely bowing to statues—it's any worship of created things over the Creator, any allegiance that competes with undivided loyalty to Christ.

This imperative transitions from historical examples to direct application. Flee doesn't mean merely avoid new idolatry; it means abandon current idolatrous practices. Some Corinthians were actively participating in temple banquets (8:10). Paul commands: stop immediately. Don't debate whether it's technically permissible—flee! Anything that divides your loyalty to Christ is functional idolatry requiring immediate abandonment.

Historical Context

Corinth had numerous temples, including the prominent temple of Aphrodite and temples to various Roman and Greek deities. Guild meetings, business

relationships, and social gatherings often occurred in temple precincts with sacrificial meals. Avoiding all such contexts required social and economic sacrifice. Paul insists fidelity to Christ demands this cost—fleeing idolatry isn't negotiable for those who belong to the true God.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What "idols" in your life compete with undivided loyalty to Christ (money, status, comfort, relationships)?
2. How can you distinguish between appropriate cultural engagement and idolatrous compromise?
3. What would "fleeing" from specific idols look like practically in your daily life?

Interlinear Text

Διόπερ	ἀγαπητοί	μου	φεύγετε	ἀπὸ	τῆς	εἰδωλολατρείας
Wherefore	dearly beloved	my	flee	from	G3588	idolatry
G1355	G27	G3450	G5343	G575		G1495

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 21:8 (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

1 John 5:21 (Parallel theme): Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Revelation 22:15 (Love): For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

2 Corinthians 6:17 (Parallel theme): Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

2 Corinthians 7:1 (Love): Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1 Peter 2:11 (Love): Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Revelation 13:8 (Parallel theme): And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 2:14 (Parallel theme): But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

1 Corinthians 10:7 (Parallel theme): Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Romans 12:19 (Love): Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.