

1 Corinthians 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Analysis

Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted—Paul now explicitly states his interpretive method: Old Testament narratives function as typoi (τύποι, "types/examples/patterns") for Christian instruction. These weren't mere historical events but divinely orchestrated object lessons **for us**, written **to the intent** (eis to, εἰς τὸ) we might avoid Israel's failures.

The warning against **lust after evil things** (epithymētai kakōn, ἐπιθυμηταὶ κακῶν) recalls Israel's craving for Egypt's food (Numbers 11:4-6, 34). Epithymia (ἐπιθυμία, "desire/lust/craving") describes disordered desire—wanting what God forbids or what He hasn't provided. Israel's lust brought judgment at Kibroth-hattaavah ("graves of craving," Numbers 11:34).

For Corinth, this addresses their desire for idol-temple meals. Just as Israel craved Egyptian food over God's manna, some Corinthians craved social prestige and culinary pleasure over spiritual purity. Paul warns: disordered desires, even for permissible things (food), can lead to divine judgment when they override obedience.

Historical Context

Israel's complaints about manna ("this light bread") and craving for meat reflected deeper discontent with God's provision. God gave them quail but sent leanness to

their souls (Psalm 106:15). The Corinthians similarly prioritized cultural participation and social advancement over gospel distinctiveness. Paul redirects their desires toward Christ-centered contentment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What "evil things" do you find yourself craving that compromise your devotion to Christ?
2. How can you identify disordered desires before they lead to serious sin?
3. In what ways does our consumer culture encourage the same craving mentality Israel displayed in the wilderness?

Interlinear Text

ταῦτα	δὲ	τύποι	ἡμῶν	έγενήθησαν	εἰς	τὸ	μὴ
these things	Now	examples	our	were	to the intent	G3588	not
G5023	G1161	G5179	G2257	G1096	G1519		G3361
εἴναι	ἡμᾶς	ἐπιθυμητὰς	κακῶν	καθὼς	κάκεῖνοι		
should	we	things	lust after evil	as	they also		
G1511	G2248	G1938	G2556	G2531	G2548		
ἐπεθύμησαν							
lusted							
G1937							

Additional Cross-References

Jude 1:7 (Parallel theme): Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

1 Corinthians 10:11 (Parallel theme): Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Hebrews 4:11 (Parallel theme): Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Numbers 11:4 (Parallel theme): And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

2 Peter 2:6 (Parallel theme): And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

1 Peter 3:21 (Parallel theme): The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: