

It's Nothing

(1 Cor. 10:19–21 KJV)

1Cor. 10:19 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?

1Cor. 10:20 But [I say], that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

1Cor. 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Idolatry is one of the most egregious sins in the Bible. It is second only to blaspheming the Holy Ghost. Scripture seems to link it closely with fornication and greed. And of the four things Paul said to flee from, idolatry is one of them. (1 Cor. 6:18; 10:14, 1 Tim. 6:11, 2 Tim. 2.22)

As we well know, the first letter to the Corinthians is a letter of correction. From divisions to abuse of the spiritual gifts, the Corinthians were definitely a work in progress.

The beauty of it is that these saints in Corinth were a result of the life-changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

(1 Th. 1:9 KJV)

For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

Corinth was a city steeped in paganism, the worship of false gods, and the illicit activities that accompanied that worship. Though many had been converted, the region was still rife with the influences of a culture built around idolatry. Paul, in this first letter, urges the church to avoid these influences.

In chapter 10, the apostle begins to warn the church about joining the world in pagan practices. Earlier in chapter 8, he told the saints that eating meat offered to idols was really not spiritually harmful unless it affected a brother in the Lord. However, here in the tenth chapter, Paul takes a solid stand about joining pagans in their feasts, which were a form of idol worship.

Paul very pointedly tells the Corinthians that you cannot take the Lord's supper and also eat at the feasts that are dedicated to false gods. The word he uses for 'fellowship' (1 Cor. 10:20) is the same root word Paul uses for communion (1 Cor. 10:16). He was telling the church that when you eat at those feasts, you are a participant in it and communing with its cause.

The apostle seems to hear the argument before he gets there, "Oh, it's nothing, just an idol that we all know is not real!" Paul already answered this question earlier.

(1 Cor. 8:4 KJV)

As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol [is] nothing in the world, and that [there is] none other God but one.

But here in chapter 10, he lets the church know that those 'nothings' are definitely about something very real!

(1 Cor. 10:20 KJV)

But [I say], that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

Here he lets the saints know that those inanimate and lifeless idols are the influence of satanic forces. By joining these pagan feasts, the cavalier saint was partaking in the worship of demons! There was a very real influence behind 'nothing.'

As the latter-day church has grown more modern, it has adopted a philosophy of practical reason. This move has brought the benefit of shedding some superstitions, but it has also crippled our desire or ability for spiritual discernment. There are things that the old-timers avoided because the Holy Ghost revealed the spirit behind those things. On the surface, it seemed like nothing, but in actuality, devils were hiding behind it all the time.

“Oh, it's just a passing fad,” some said when our young men started dressing in effeminate pants—it's nothing. Well, it definitely was something. Homosexuality and transgenderism have pervaded every facet of society, and it wants dominion in the Apostolic Church, desperately. Oh, it's just the new style of music; those old hymns don't work anymore—it's nothing. Now church song service looks more like a worldly concert as they try and mimic the charismatic mega-churches and replicate what they see on so-called Christian music videos. Much of that new style of worship certainly had 'something' behind it, and it wasn't the Holy Ghost.

I guess I could fill a few pages with examples of things that were “nothing,” from television to facial hair. It all seemed like insignificant convictions. Thank God for men who could hear the voice of God and try the spirits to see *whether they be of God*.

With the advent of the internet, our churches are dealing with new influences which come in like a torrent. So many of these new ways and ideas will really seem like nothing. Let us prayerfully seek the mind of God and be rock solid sure that there is not some demonic force trying to get a foothold in our lives or our churches. Is it really 'nothing?'

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