

Father's Expectations— 1 Corinthians 10:6–11

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I have been talking to my friends about our Heavenly Father's expectations for us—because He is a God of mercy.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread (Thursday, April 9), I gave a Bible study titled "What Are the Father's Expectations?" The purpose of the presentation was twofold.

- I wanted to remind friends that a God of grace has expectations for His children.
- I wanted to remind friends that the Bible contains many, many examples of the Father's expectations.

Let's notice a few of those expectations by looking at 1 Corinthians 10:6-11.

1 Corinthians 10:6-10—"Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.' Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer."

Although the text describes five characteristics that the apostle Paul discouraged, we can also recognize five characteristics that Paul recommends.

Be content

Paul mentioned that the Israelites lusted after evil things. Many Bible students believe that he was referring to Numbers 11:4-6.

Paul taught disciples in Philippi to be content. See Philippians 4:11-13.

Avoid idolatry

Paul mentioned that the Israelites were idolaters. He directly referred to Exodus 32:6.

What is noteworthy to me is how Aaron sought to justify his involvement by blaming the people and reporting the occurrence of a supernatural event.

Exodus 32:22-24—"So Aaron said, 'Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. For they said to me, "Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." And I said to them, "Whoever has any gold, let them break it off." So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.' "

Paul recognized and complimented disciples in Thessalonica for turning from idols to serve the living God. See 1 Thessalonians 1:9.

Avoid sexual immorality

Paul mentioned that the Israelites committed sexual immorality. He directly referred to Numbers 25:1-9.

Paul taught the disciples in Corinth to avoid sexual immorality. See 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.

Trust the Lord

Paul mentioned that Israelites "tempted Christ." What does that even mean? Here are how some other translations word the phrase "tempted Christ."

- Moffatt translation—Not presume upon the Lord
- New American Standard Bible—Not try the Lord
- Revised Standard version—Not put the Lord to the test
- The New Testament in the Language of Today—Not go too far in testing the Lord's patience

Paul directly referred to Numbers 21:5-6.

Instead of mentioning one of Paul's instructions here, I want to remind you about one of the three temptations of the Son of God. See Matthew 4:6-7.

Recognize your blessings

Paul mentioned that the Israelites complained against God. He directly referred to Numbers 14:2-37.

Paul taught disciples in Philippi to recognize their blessings and to focus on the positive. See Philippians 4:8.

Written for us

1 Corinthians 10:11—"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."