

- ✍ Have you ever noticed that our lives never drift towards holiness? Much in the same way that a vehicle never drifts on course only off of it. Paul was speaking of the race of the Christian life in the previous chapter, and he is continuing that thought here by giving us examples of those who got off course in the race and got disqualified. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:1-5, Paul uses the word "all" five times in this portion of the chapter so that we would understand that nobody was left out, all these people had the same opportunities and privileges. All had the same advantages, but most drifted off course and fell.
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**1. There are distinct parallels between what the children of Israel experienced and what the children of God have and will experience.**

- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:1-2 This "cloud" guided the children of Israel through the trackless desert much in the same way as the Holy Spirit guides believers, Romans 8:14. We have a Guide, but do we follow our Guide? "The cloud and the sea," Paul equivocates this to their baptism, their rite of passage of sorts, when they passed through these they were identified as following God. Similarly, we are publicly identified with belonging to Jesus by our baptism. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:3-4, spiritual food and drink, they were sustained supernaturally by God's provision. Just like believers who also receive our real sustenance from spiritual and not physical things.

**2. With all their privileges, we would think that it would have been impossible for an Israelite to drift off course.**

- ✓ Similarly, you would think that with all of our privileges as believers that we would be insulated from drift as well. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:5, the word "most" is a tough word. Notice, Paul is saying that there is parallel between the privileges of the two groups, a parallel in the tendencies to drift; and a parallel in the things that cause the drift, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:6-11. They desire evil things, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:6, what were those things?, Numbers 11:4-6. Are these things evil? They are not evil in and of themselves, but they are evil in the sense that God had provided one thing and they desired something different. When we are not content with what God has for us, where God has us, or the conditions God has set up for us, we are headed into desiring things that are evil. What are evil desires? Anything that God does not want or have for us. When we fall to wanting things ("lusting" for things) that God does not want for us, we can get ourselves in a lot of hot water. A person with a discontented heart has the attitude that what he does for God is too much and what God does for him is too little. Beware of a discontented heart; it will cause you a lot of pain.

**3. The second thing that caused drift in the Israelites was idolatry, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:7.**

- ✓ The Israelites made a golden calf and trusted in it because it was easier to believe in something that they could see. In the same way, we make gods out of the tangible things in life, success, wealth, possessions, status, self-image, etc. What do we idolize? Look at your checkbook or credit card statement, look at your calendar.

**4. The third thing that caused drift in the Israelites was immorality, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:8.**

- ✓ This is referring to incident in Numbers 25 where the Israelite men fell into immorality with Moabite women and the Lord killed 23,000 of them. God is not looking the other way on the subjects of fornication, adultery, and homosexual behavior, He is very serious about these things. Immorality is a very serious drift; this includes immorality of the mind like pornography.
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**5. The fifth thing that caused drift in the Israelites was putting the Lord to the test, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:9.**

- ✓ They called into question God's goodness by questioning His provisions for them, this was part and parcel to their grumbling. Grumbling is complaining either openly or in our hearts about the situation that the Lord has us in. Are you complaining to other about your situation? The Lord hears that! God is good all the time and what He has for us may not be the most enjoyable, but it is where He has us and it will be good in the long run. His will is always best; His way is always the right way. Our grumbling is calling those things into question! 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:11-12, "let him who thinks he's on course check the map." Everybody drifts but if we aren't careful we can get way off course. Drift is always gradual; no garden suddenly overgrows with weeds; no building suddenly crumbles; no person suddenly becomes base; no marriage suddenly falls apart.

**We drift... We drift towards compromise and call it tolerance. We drift towards disobedience and call it freedom. We drift towards superstition and call it faith. We drift towards the loss of our self-control and call it relaxation. We drift towards prayerlessness and claim we've escaped legalism. We drift towards godlessness and convince ourselves that we've been liberated. We drift! Where are you drifting? The only thing that ensures a continued drift is to think that you're not.**

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