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1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

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SIMPLY BE CAREFUL

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12-33

Are you one of those people who routinely ignore warning signs?

- No human being is ever beyond temptation while he or she is on this earth.
- Those most liable to fall are those who think they won't or can't; they ignore the signs.
- We need to beware of deceptive comparisons; you can always find somebody "worse than you."

NO ONE IS IMMUNE TO TEMPTATION

- We all need to realize our weaknesses and turn to God to resist the temptation. Enduring temptation brings great rewards. **James 1:12**
- God does not always remove temptation because facing it and remaining strong can be a growing experience.
- God does promise to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it.

WHAT'S YOUR ESCAPE PLAN?

Any temptation can be resisted because God will help you resist it . . . if you will do it!

- Running from a tempting situation is your first step on the way to victory. **2 Timothy 2:22; James 4:7-10**
- Recognize people and situations that give you trouble.
- Choose to do only what is right, never what is wrong.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's help; and ***no means no!***
- Seek believing friends who love God and can support you when you are tempted.

RUNNING THE RIGHT DIRECTION v. 14-18

- Being careful and wise means recognizing an idol when you see one—and running away.
- Being careful and wise means being in close communion with the Lord—and running to Him.
- Being wise and careful means being united with other believers—and running with them.

STEPS TO TRUE UNITY IN CHRIST

- 1.** Focus on the nature, attributes, splendor, and holiness of God as found in God's Word.
- 2.** Keep mind, heart, and ears open while keeping the mouth closed longer.
- 3.** Steer clear of people who closely measure everyone else by their standards.
- 4.** Remember that Jesus died for people, not principles, systems, denominations, or distinctives.
- 5.** Stay out of endless arguments over various denominational methods and church traditions.

BE CAREFUL WHO YOU EAT WITH! v. 19-22

- Satan and his demons are behind all idolatry for idolatry turns people away from the true God.
- Demons use people's inclusiveness, tolerance of sin, openness and willingness to believe to deceive and entice them.
- Eating at the demons' table means identifying with Satan by worshiping or promoting pagan (evil) activities.
- Are you trying to lead two lives, following the desires of both Christ and the crowd? ***Sit at the right table!***

BE CAREFUL, NOT EVERYTHING IS GOOD FOR YOU! v. 23-31

- Just because it's legal does not make it okay with God.
- The goal here is also not a general hypersensitivity that worries constantly about what others might possibly think.
- We have great freedom in Christ, but we shouldn't exercise our freedom at the cost of hurting a brother or sister.
- We are actually living free, but not so free we get to sin.
- We should all practice the Hippocratic oath: "***First do no harm.***"

BE CAREFUL TO PUT OTHERS FIRST v. 32-33

- Our whole focus should be to win others to Christ!
- In things that did not really matter, Paul tried to please everybody in every way—whether they were Jews, Greeks, or the church of God.
- Real freedom always chooses what is best for others.
- If we make the good of others our primary goal, we will develop a loving and serving attitude that pleases God.

LET'S SIMPLY BE CAREFUL!