

**DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD - 1Cor 10:31**

(Kaikohe CF - 3/9/95 - EKB)

1. God is pouring out His Spirit upon the Church at this time, to enable us to honour Him, glorify, please and serve Him in all we do, *Col 3:17, Col 3:23,24, 2Cor 5:9*.
2. "Second best is no longer good enough." Pastor John Mau.
3. *1Cor 10:1-11* is a warning, to keep us from failing to respond to God's abundant blessings, and glorify Him in all we do.
4. Israel, as a nation, was amazingly blessed by God during their deliverance from Egypt, *Ex 12-15*, and journeyings through the wilderness. The visible presence of God amongst them, as a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, *Ex 13:21,22, Ex 40:38*, was awesome. They all passed miraculously through the Red Sea, *Ex 14:29,30*, but when the Egyptian army tried to pursue them, they were drowned, *Ex 14:27*. For forty years God supernaturally fed them with manna or "angels' food," *Ex 16:15-18,31, Ps 78:24,25*. They drank water out of the rock, *Ex 17:6*. Their shoes and their clothes did not wear out for forty years, *Deut 29:5*. It was the presence of Christ among them that was their Source of every blessing, *1Cor 10:4*.
5. However, Israel failed to respond to the abundant grace of God. They persisted in living in their sinful ways and failed to do all to God's glory. As a result they all, or nearly all, perished in the wilderness and never made it through to the land of promise, *Num 14:22-24*.
6. God has given us this description of Israel's failure as an example for us, so that we might not copy them, *1Cor 10:6,11*.
7. By God's abundant grace let us move from lust to self control, and live for God's glory, *1Cor 10:6, 1Cor 9:27*. God has given us five basic desires or needs:
  - a. food
  - b. drink
  - c. sleep
  - d. sex
  - e. self preservation.

These desires are given to us so that we will be kept strong, fruitful, and safe, while we serve God. When these things become an end in themselves, the thing we live for, rather than God, they become lust and sin. Eat and drink to live for God. (Don't live to eat). Sleep, to be refreshed to serve God. Keep sex within marriage, for God would have us to be fruitful and multiply, *Gen 1:28*, and produce godly seed, *Mal 2:15*. The desire of self preservation is so that parents will be motivated to labour and work for the provision of clothes, drink, food and shelter for them and their family.
8. As God is pouring out His Spirit let us move from idolatry to true worship of God, *1Cor 10:7, Jn 4:23*. An idol is something that comes before God in our lives. It may be the boat, a business, a hobby, sport, the batch or videos. None of these things are wrong in themselves, provided that God is kept in first place, before them.
9. God is greatly blessing us so that we can move away from all sexual immorality,

*1Cor 10:8*, into pure, holy living in our marriage relationship. Sexual immorality starts with a roving eye, *Job 31:1, Mat 5:28*. By God's grace be a one woman man, a one man woman, and keep all your sexual desires for your marriage partner. Where there are relationship problems, seek God together in prayer, and choose His solution, of humbling self to be servants of one another, *Gal 5:13*.

10. Let us move on from tempting Christ, and putting Him to the test, *1Cor 10:9*, to choosing to believe His Word, and live by faith and trust in His Word and His promises. We are tempting Christ when we say, "If God loved me, my car wouldn't have a flat tyre!" or "If God loved me He would take this pain away!" Go to God's Word and believe His promises, *2Pet 1:4, 2Cor 1:20*.
11. Lastly let us stop murmuring and criticising our leaders, *1Cor 10:10*, whom God has raised up among us and choose to support, encourage and pray for them. Leaders are trying to please God. They are not perfect. They make mistakes. God did not choose them because they are perfect people. He just chose them! We are to respect and support them. If we disagree with them we are to be open and honest to their faces, with humility, restraint and politeness, and pay our tithes to support the ministry and the church, *1Thes 5:12,13*.