



## [1 Corinthians 10:20-21](#)

(20) Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. (21) You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

*New King James Version*

To use Paul's analogy, our spiritual diet must not be a mixture of true and false doctrines. In this area of life, a mixture produces nothing good ([James 3:11-12](#)). We must make every effort to separate the true food from the false if we are to grow and qualify for the [Kingdom of God](#). This is a responsibility that falls on each of us—we *cannot leave it to others!* We **must** acknowledge the source of the false teaching—[Satan](#), his demons, and his false ministers—to truly appreciate the seriousness of heresy.

Like Peter, Paul warns about [heresies](#) within the church: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the [faith](#), giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons" ([1 Timothy 4:1](#)). The Greek word *planos*, translated as "deceiving" (NKJV) or "seducing" (KJV), is the same word from which we derive the English word "planet." It conveys the idea of wandering. To the astronomers of ancient Greece, the planets appeared to wander in a heaven populated by other, relatively fixed lights. Thus, evil spirits induce people to wander from the true path of God's Word. These are the principalities and powers against which we wrestle ([Ephesians 6:10-12](#)).

Heresy is not always easily detected because Satan usually camouflages the lie with a large measure of [truth](#). He is a master of deceit. Because the people of [the world](#) are so ignorant of [God](#), Satan can tell them virtually anything, and they will believe it. But with us he generally does not directly challenge or obviously and blatantly misquote Scripture. His confrontation with [Jesus](#), beginning in [Matthew 4:1](#), is a classic example. He subtly twists the intent of a scripture to bend it into a wrong application or understanding. At other times, he will appeal to our vanity to get us to react to his suggestions without thinking.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

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The Bible gives only a few specific doctrines with which seducing spirits, heresy or [false ministers](#) are directly associated. However, do not be fooled that so few doctrines are directly mentioned with the word "heresy" attached. No [doctrine](#) is sacrosanct to demons. They will attack the people of God in **any** spiritual area. The Bible makes it very clear that demons are our major, major enemies, and deception that leads us into [sin](#) is their game!

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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