

These, then, are ways in which this desire to break through the limits God has set for human conduct has been expressed. The Israelites began to commit fornication with the women of Moab and in doing so were enticed by them to participate in the religious ceremonies of Baal. God's anger was kindled against them for this! And Paul warns the Corinthians (and us) about this desire and our tendency to fulfill it.

A fourth desire that tends to draw us away from God and toward idolatry is:

THE DESIRE FOR RELIEF FROM THE DIFFICULTIES AND HARDSHIPS OF
LIFE

Please turn with me to Numbers 21:4-9. . . .

Numbers 21:4-9 (NIV) They [the Israelites] traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; {5} they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" {6} Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.