

1 CORINTHIANS 11 (part 2)
Verses 11 - 34: Abuse of the Lord's Supper at Corinth

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BACKGROUND: We see several disorders at Corinth, including the previous verses of this chapter concerning the relationships of men and women toward each other and toward God. Now, in the remaining verses of the chapter, we see abuses regarding the Lord's Supper.

I. PAUL'S CONDEMNATION, 11:17-22

A. The Corinthians assembled together, but not for the better - for the worse.

1. In what was happening when they assembled, Paul could not praise them.
2. Divisions existed among them.
 - a. "Division" (v. 18), Gk., **SCHISMA** (the same word used in 1 Corinthians 1:10)
 - b. "Heresies" (v. 19), Gk., **HAIREISIS**, meaning "a choosing, a choice"; it is a much stronger word than "division" (see Galatians 5:20).
 - c. Paul's point? Consider carefully:
 - (1) Unnecessary division among faithful brethren is wrong!
(1 Corinthians 1:10; John 17:20-21; Ephesians 4:3)
 - (2) However, sometimes the Lord permits factions, that those who meet His approval may be recognized ("made manifest") - (see Titus 3:10; 2 Peter 2:1; Matt. 18:7; Luke 17:1; 2 Tim. 2:15, 19)
 - (3) While division is hurtful (and sometimes sinful), there may be occasions in which it is better to be divided by truth than united in error! Think about this carefully!

B. The Corinthians "coming together":

1. It should have been to eat the Lord's Supper, but it was not!

Note: "Lord's Supper" from Gk, **KURIAKOS**, meaning "*of, or belonging to, the Lord*" - this word is used only twice in the New Testament

1 Corinthians 11:20
"Lord's Supper"

Revelation 1:10
"Lord's day"

2. The problem at Corinth: they were making the Lord's Supper a common meal! - Paul points them to their houses in taking a common meal (verse 22).
3. Is there anything wrong with a common, social meal? NO! Is there anything wrong with turning the Lord's Supper into a common meal? YES!

II. THE MEANING OF THE LORD’S SUPPER, 11: 23-25

A. Paul received his instruction from the Lord (v. 23)

B. Jesus’ institution of the Lord’s Supper: **Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-31; Luke 22:14-23**

BREAD: “This is my body” / FRUIT OF THE VINE: “This is my blood of the new testament.”

III. PROPER PARTAKING OF THE LORD’S SUPPER, 11: 26-34

A. The Lord’s Supper is a PROCLAMATION of the Lord’s death! v. 26

B. Eating and drinking unworthily, v. 27

1. This verse has been badly misunderstood: it is not a reference to “personal worthiness,” but rather to manner of partaking:
 - a. “Not discerning” = Gk, “separate, discriminate, decide”; to recognize as different
 - b. “The Lord’s body”:
 - the Lord’s PHYSICAL BODY (Matt. 26:26-28)
 - the Lord’s SPIRITUAL BODY (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 11:22)
2. The result of not taking the Lord’s Supper properly? Many weak, sickly, sleep (compare Ephesians 5:14; Isaiah 51:17; 52:1; 60:1).

C. The need for self-examination!

1. One must examine *what* he is doing in view of *what he is supposed to be* doing: Is he proclaiming the Lord’s death in partaking?
2. Proper self-examination will cause us to avoid the condemnation of the Lord, vv. 31-32
3. It is better to be CHASTENED of the Lord than CONDEMNED!

D. The need to tarry one for another!

1. The Lord’s Supper relates not only to our relationship with God, but also to our relationship one with another in the body of Christ.
2. If one is coming together to satisfy physical hunger, eat at home!
The spiritual purpose of the Lord’s Supper must never be lost sight of!

L O R D ‘ S S U P P E R	REMEMBRANCE (vv. 24-25) PROCLAMATION (v. 26) EXAMINATION (v. 28)
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WE LOOK: BACKWARD (to remember Christ!), INWARD (to examine self!), FORWARD (to anticipate Jesus’ coming!), and OUTWARD (to proclaim Christ’s death!).