

1 Corinthians 11:17-34 – “The Lord’s Supper”

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

¹⁷ In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸ In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹ No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God’s approval.

²⁰ So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat, ²¹ for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. ²² Don’t you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘*This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.*’ ²⁵ In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, ‘*This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.*’ ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and ill, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. ³² Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. ³⁴ Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.

And when I come I will give further instructions.

The Lord’s Supper

The agape meal

“Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake in the one loaf”,
1 Corinthians 10:17

“The cup of thanksgiving”, 10:16

The cup of redemption, v25

The actions of the wealthy were destroying the unity of the church

Very strong words from Paul, vv17, 22-23

Paul's reminder of the significance of the Lord's Supper, vv23-26

"The proclamation of the Lord's death until He returns, v26

The broken bread symbolizes participation

The broken bread symbolizes suffering

"Covenant", v25 – personal, covenant-relationship

"Therefore", v27 – repent or face judgment, vv27-32

"examine themselves", v28 – check your attitude

"without discerning the body of Christ", v29 – the church

Divine discipline, v32

Pragmatic solution, vv33-34

1. Communion is a reminder, vv24-25

Of the Cross

2. Communion demands holy reverence

Jesus became sin so that we might receive His righteousness, 2 Corinthians 5:21

3. Communion is about receiving

"You do not have because you do not ask God", James 4:2

4. Communion is a family reunion

All brothers and sisters in the Lord are welcome and equal

5. Communion is full of rejoicing

The meal between the Last Supper and the banquet in Heaven

Discussion questions

a. What is the best party you have ever attended? What made it so good?

b. When have you been excluded? How did [do] you feel when it happened? What could have been done differently to include you?

c. In what ways do you see Liberty Grace building people up, involving and loving people, and breaking down barriers? How might you support these efforts?

d. How would you describe the purpose of Holy Communion to an interested unbelieving friend?

e. What, for you, makes Holy Communion important? Why?