

**“REMEMBERING THE LORD’S
SUPPER”**
1 Corinthians 11:17-34

INTRODUCTION

In the second half of this chapter, Paul deals with the divisions in the church of Corinth. The problem was that there were not just differences of opinion, but different groups developed. When they came together for the Agape Feast, something like the modern day “pot luck”, abuses came about during the celebration of communion which often followed.

THE ORDINANCES

In the scriptures, Christians are only given 2 ordinances to follow, baptism and the Lord’s Supper, or communion. Neither of these save us, but point to the way we are saved. Jesus observed both of these during His ministry on earth. These help us to remember His death and sacrifice for us on the cross. Some groups make more of the Lord’s Supper than they should. They feel that the bread actually turns into His body and the wine turns into His actual blood. Others don’t feel these symbols are important at all and take communion too casually, getting drunk at a spiritual ordinance designed to remember the Lord. Paul reprimanded them for this!

In **verse 22** Paul rebukes them and lets them know that such actions show selfishness and self-centeredness, a despising of the church and disrespect toward those who have little. The church of Corinth was a blended family, rich, poor, young and old. God wants us to have a high view of the church. We need to put great value on all of its members.

UNWORTHY MANNER

Paul’s appeal is that if you are going to eat together and have communion too, do it right! You could eat at home first if you want to. Eating unworthily is the *manner* in which communion is observed. Some are too casual about it and don’t feel that it is important at all! They see it as low in value. Unfortunately, they don’t feel the need to gather and share this with other believers.

Another way of eating unworthily is having a double life, a life of sin. **Verses 29-30** mention judgment on believers because of this! There were cases where some even died by the Lord for disrespecting this ordinance. The Chief Shepherd wants to keep His flock healthy. Before judgment, God is patient to try to lead a person to repentance first! This is one reason why we are encouraged to examine ourselves at the time of communion. This is, in a sense, quality assurance for us.

Paul taught and led communion for the Corinthians while he was there. He mentions Judas, **verse 23**. There could be one in any church. While we are called upon to remember Jesus, unfortunately, people forget him all the time! He is the ultimate sacrifice! His body was broken for us, and His blood was shed for us, **1 Peter 1:18, 19**.

CONSIDER

Communion looks at the cross, but also looks ahead unto the future, until He comes, **verse 26**. No one is worthy. Our righteousness is given to us by the Lord. As we look at the Lord’s supper now, we look forward to another supper of great celebration, the marriage supper of the Lamb. While that is yet future, our job is to examine ourselves, not someone else. *Are you willing to do that?* As we examine ourselves, don’t fall into the trap of comparing yourself to someone else. Look at *yourself* only in the light of God’s Word. *Be sure to make the necessary changes in your life before the Lord has to do it for you, v.31!*

PRAY

- * For our Christmas outreach to the community.
- * For our Christmas Presentation with the Calvary Chapel Choir on December 19th.
- * For the Prophecy Conference on January 25-26.