

The Lords Supper

1Corinthians 11:17-34

A stone statue of a lamb sits atop a steeple on a magnificent cathedral in Germany. It was placed there when workers were on the roof, building out one of the tower sections. A worker lost his balance, slid down the roof, off the edge to what seemed sure death. As his fellow workers scrambled down ladders & scaffold expecting to see the broken body of their co-worker, to their surprize they found him on his feet, dusting himself off, perfectly ok. Apparently a flock of lambs were grassing just below & one positioned directly under the falling man & had absorbed his impact, killing the lamb but saving the life of the worker. As tribute to the lamb that saved his life the worker had a stone sculpture made & placed it permanently at the place where he had fallen as a memorial to remind the towns people of the life saved by the lamb.

The Lords supper is a memorial w/ this kind of significance. Jesus the lamb of God saved us from sin by His death on the cross giving us eternal life.

Jesus fulfills Passover--being the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world--giving us a new ordinance-Communion, Lords Supper or Grk Eucharist-**thanksgiving**. But problems exist in Corinthian church--Paul writes & rebukes the scandalous abuse of this sacred practice.

17 But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part, I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you. 20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, 21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

Agape feast, **Acts 2:42,46** gathered rich/poor, masters/slaves for fellowship called '**love feast**' a social gathering centered on Christ—bringing church together for fellowship & love for each other – **Potluck**-crude **vs** beautiful

Abuses crept in, doing harm not good—**cliques**, ate w/ own crowd instead of fellowship w/ whole family of God (**CC conference**) Showing true colors of so-called believers. Revealing true & not so true in loving one another.

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Problem of selfishness—rich brought lots for themselves & friends while poor went hungry-weekly agape feast only good meal for poor. **NS-surfers**

Bad conduct corrupts good institutions **ecclesia**—what was meant to bind together was breaking apart-bringing discord. Paul corrects: rich eat at home & drunk-stop it, no way to act at Lords table-repulsive-aggressive-**spirits**

Lords supper/communion followed agape feast-**to be** holy & blessed time.

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which 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 He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Every teacher or one who stands before people to speak on behalf of God should be able to say '**what I received from Lord I declare to you**'. Our voice-message what God says--thru study-prayer-meditation-communing w/ Him--what He reveals to me, I now tell you. **Early 'what rec Chuck declare'** To declare on behalf **of** God we must first partake **from** God.

24,25 Not transubstantiation or consubstantiation-but memorial-**remember**

As often – daily, weekly, monthly? Not **loose** significance-ritual to rut. CCH 1st Sunday of month but wid-week set out for all to partake. Remember because prone to forget. Jesus never forgets, doesn't need reminder.

Ps 139:2-5 How precious also are Thy thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still w/ Thee.

We need reminding to keep spiritually healthy, Joyful, affirm new life, assures God's love.

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Ps 103:2-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul, & forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit: Who crowns you w/ lovingkindness & compassion; Who satisfies your years w/ good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly. 30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Abused each other at agape feast, bad witness to others, not skip beat go to Communion table. Gorged & drunk to celebrate body & blood of Jesus.

Absurdity & contradiction to what Jesus teaching. It's serious thing come to Lords table w/ heart unprepared & insensitive. Need to examine & recognize grace of God, not abusing it thru **reckless** living but repent.

Otherwise :29 judgment to himself, if not judge personal approach when partaking of bread & cup--Lord's death for our sins. :30 weak, sick – opportunity to get right w/ Lord

Jesus wants us to remember His death. Most would like to forget sorrow of loved one dying. In the Lord we rejoice they are w/ Jesus but we miss them. **Bart**

*Remember 'Jesus paid a debt He did not owe because we owe a debt we cannot pay' died for our sins, don't let it be a needless death for you (hell instead of heaven). Remembering His love for you until He comes again- Expecting His return...**Looking for the blessed hope & appearing..**' Titus 2:13*

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Corinthians neglected to examine themselves—hypocrisy always judged and disciplined out of love.

Pr 3:12 For whom the LORD loves He disciplines Just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights. Heb 12:6 quotes :8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have been made partakers, then are you illegitimate, and not children. Discipline proves we are His.

Extreme cases He takes them home—can't handle life as a believer & bad witness to unbelievers. God to David ***You've caused enemies of God to blaspheme***

33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you may not come together for judgment. And the remaining matters I shall arrange when I come.

Lords supper opportunity to show & experience unity and oneness and Koinonia. ***Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another with brotherly affection, give preference to one another in honor;***

So communion is not for the unbeliever but believers who seek to walk rightly w/ the Lord. Repenting of known sins, making right broken relationships (***live at peace as much as lives w/in—some you can't--not on your part but theirs***), committing our lives fully to Him. That is a prepared heart ready to partake of the Lords Supper