



How to Come Together at Supper Time – Pt 2 (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

- The Corinthians had turned the Lord's Supper into a gluttonous drunken orgy of selfishness and Paul needed to bring correction to this shameful practice.
- Paul communicates four corrective looks that will help restore the significance of this special memorial in honor of Jesus Christ.

① Look around and rejoice in your oneness together in Christ (11:17-22, 33-34; 10:16-17)

- The church was undermining the oneness they shared in Christ with a self-centered practice of the Lord's Supper.
 - 1) Their selfishness produced "*divisions*" and "*factions*" in the church family (v. 18-19) as rivalries were taking place among leaders (1 Cor. 1:12)
 - 2) Their selfishness produced deviations away from the central focus of the meaning of the Lord's Supper while personal eating was prioritized, neglect of the needy was practiced, and drunkenness was happening (1 Cor. 11:20-21)
 - 3) Their selfishness produced dishonor toward those in need and withheld any commendable word of praise (1 Cor. 11:22, 33=34)

② Look back and remember Christ's work on the cross (11:23-25)

- Paul was given direct revelation from the Lord (v. 23) about highlighting the importance of celebrating this memorial "*in remembrance of Me*" (v. 24, 25; Luke 22:19)
 - 1) The "*bread*" commemorates "*His body*" (v. 23b-24). This bread pointed to Christ's perfect life lived out in a human body which earned our salvation that would be afflicted in a sacrificial suffering and substitutionary death.
 - 2) The "*cup*" commemorates "*the new covenant in His blood*" (v. 25). It's the "*cup of blessing*" (1 Cor. 10:16) or the "*cup of the Lord*" (1 Cor. 10:21). Jesus said this cup was signified "*for the forgiveness of sins*" (Matt. 26:28) which fulfilled the promise of the new covenant (Jer. 31:31-34)

③ Look forward and practice this celebration until Jesus returns (11:26; Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25)

- The Lord's Supper reminds us to be ready for Christ's return.
- We look forward in hope: "*so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation, without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him*" (Heb. 9:28)

④ Look inside and assess your heart's spiritual condition (11:27-32)

- God calls for holy introspection upon our own life and faith.
- A neglect of self-examination can bring God's discipline which in the Corinthian church led to weakness, sickness, and even death.

- v. 29: Watch out for the “*if*” condition (“*if he does not judge the body rightly*”). Paul employs two safeguards when participating in this important commemoration:
 - 1) Beware of partaking “*in an unworthy manner*” (v. 27)
 - 2) Be careful to “*examine*” yourself (v. 28, 31)
 - ≈ Check your repentance of sin
 - ≈ Check your faith to make sure you are trusting in Christ alone for salvation
 - ≈ Check your gratitude toward the Lord for His gift of eternal life.
 - ≈ Check your love to make sure you re not selfishly hurting others and failing to seek their best even if the best may be sharing some loving correction.