

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE LORD'S SUPPER?

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

- There are two ordinances that Christians should observe: The Lord's Supper (Communion) and Baptism.
- Most evangelical Christians limit the ordinances to The Lord's Supper and Baptism because they are the only 2 that meet 5 primary criteria: 1) They were prescribed by the Lord, 2) They were proclaimed among the saints, 3) They were practiced by the churches, 4) They were participated in only by the saved, 5) They picture the atoning sacrifice and bodily resurrection of Jesus (Dr. Akin, *Christ Centered Exposition: 1 Corinthians*)

AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD AVOID CLASSISM THAT LEADS TO SELFISHNESS (vss. 17-22)

- **Classism = Differential treatment, prejudice, or discrimination on the basis of social class or perceived social class.**
- *"Indeed, if you fulfill the royal law prescribed in the Scripture, Love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. 9 If, however, you show favoritism, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors."*(James 2:8-9)
- **Selfishness is a sin that leads to the neglect of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.**
- *"The one who gives to the poor will not be in need, but one who turns his eyes away will receive many curses."* (Proverbs 28:27)
- *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or without clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:35-40)*

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A SACRED ORDINANCE THAT SHOULD BE HONORED AS SUCH BY ALL CHRISTIANS (vss. 23-

- **The Lord's Supper (Communion) reminds us of the great sacrifice Jesus made for us through His beaten body and the shedding of His blood.**
- *"...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."* (Hebrews 9:22b)
- **The Lord's Supper (Communion) is not just a ritual we do, but an act of deep commitment to our Lord who rescued us from**

the eternal consequences of our sin by His death and resurrection.

- *"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, 24 and when He had given thanks, broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' 25 In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, and said, '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."* (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- **The Lord's Supper (Communion) reminds us that Jesus is coming back for His Church. (vs. 26)**
- *"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words."* (1 Thess. 4:16-18)
- **The Lord's Supper (Communion) should be received with reverence for the Lord, a pure heart, right motives, and with unity among fellow Christians. (vss. 27-34)**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- What is the main issue Paul addresses in 1 Cor. 11:17-34?
- What is The Lord's Supper and why should we observe it?
- Why do we believe that the bread/cup are **symbolic** of Jesus' body and blood, and not the actual body/blood?

Understanding

- How does observing The Lord's Supper impact your views of the past, present, and future in Christ?
- What is the connection between unity and The Lord's Supper?
- How does this study impact your view of those who have wealth and those who don't in the Church?
- How can we avoid being selfish among fellow Christians?
- How does The Lord's Supper warn us and encourage us at the same time?
- How can we avoid simply taking the bread and cup as a ritual or routine thing while losing its significance?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?