



13: Significance of The Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:17-33)

The Church is supposed to be a gathering for followers of Jesus from all walks of life, who appreciate & participate in Christian community. Today we discover how the "The Lord's Supper" reminds us to be one Body serving One King.

beourguest

Thanks so much for joining us today! Please register your visit using this CR Code **Connect Card** ➔

teachingnotes

Follow today's teaching notes on your digital device (**wi-fi: Worship Center Guest**).

1. **Open phone camera** & zoom in on the **QR code pic to the right**. **OPEN** our VISUAL NOTES.
2. Access PDF notes to teachings from: **bit.ly/PDFNotes**
3. Watch **FB Live** & **see teaching notes** on our FB page: **facebook.com/fellowshipofmadison**
4. Check out our webpage: **FOM.life** (including over 545 teachings - audio & video).

CONNECT CARD



VISUAL NOTES

What's the Significance of the Lord's Supper?

Communion or The Lord's Supper was more than a memorial - it was a meal - Jude (the 1/2 brother of Jesus) refers to it as a "love feast" - a time for believers from all walks of life - young and old - rich and poor - to experience & participate the community in Christ. The Lord's Supper (aka Communion) is a time where we share together as ONE BODY, as we appreciate Jesus - the Bread of Life - who gave His life for US.

Catch the Context

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (CSB) The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the Blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the Body of Christ? Because there is One Bread, **we who are many are one body**, since **all of us share the One Bread**.

The gathering that was intended to bind Corinthian Christians together became a time of division.

1 Corinthians 11:17-19 (CSB) Now in giving this instruction I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. For to begin with, I hear that when you come together as a church **there are divisions among you**, and in part I believe it. Indeed, it is necessary that there be factions among you, so that those who are approved may be recognized among you.

Paul is frustrated that the church gathering wasn't a time of unity but a time of division. **Divisions** do clarify & separate those **approved** by God from those who are not - those who obey God from those who do not.

1 Corinthians 11:20-22 (CSB) **When you come together**, then, **it is not to eat the Lord's Supper**. For at the meal, each one eats his own supper. So one person is hungry while another gets drunk! Don't you have homes in which to eat and drink? Or do you **despise the church of God** and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I do not praise you in this matter!

The church would **come together to eat the Lord's Supper**, but some people were more interested in filling their bellies than embracing one another in community. They might have quoted from Jesus' words and consumed the meal, but they *DIDN'T* experience Jesus' Presence & peace.

✘ Some ate and didn't wait, some are drinking too much (**drunk**), while others are left **hungry** - likely because the food is gone by the time they show up. Some of the more wealthy & free believers likely opened their homes for these "love feasts" (Jude 12). The first comers (the rich with more freedoms) likely filled the small private dining room while the latecomers (those who had to finish work before arriving) would be seated in a different place, like a courtyard.¹

✘ The division between white-collar and blue-collar workers was the norm in Corinthian gatherings, it was NOT to be the norm among brothers and sisters in Christ.

¹ Craig Blomberg, 1 Corinthians, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994), 228.

✓ Rather than **humiliate** the poor believers among them, this meal was to help all see that we are ALL LOVED by the King who laid down His life for us. So too, we are to lay down our lives for one another.

1 John 3:16 (CSB) This is how we have come to know love: **He laid down his life for us.** We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

The Lord's Supper is the very reminder that this ought to be the case! The bread and wine represent the most incredible truth, that Jesus **laid down His life for us!** Just before this meal Jesus washed the disciples' feet saying:

John 13:14-15 (CSB) So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another's feet.** For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you.

In contrast, the Corinthians chose to **despise** what **the church** and **humiliate** the poor brothers and sisters instead of embracing them (1 Cor 11:20-22), and Paul is frustrated by this.

❓ Do WE value every brother and sister in Christ...OR...do we devalue those who aren't as wealthy, beautiful, or mature as the others?

The Lord's Supper = thanking Jesus and embracing your brothers & sisters.

❓ Are you in right relationship with your brothers & sisters OR do you need to exit today and make that right?

Matthew 5:23-24 (CSB) So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister,** and then come and offer your gift.

➡ The most significant act of obedience today might NOT be to partake in communion, but to rebuild community with a brother or sister.

The Warning Shot

1 Corinthians 11:27-28 (CSB)

So, then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord. **Let a person examine himself;** in this way let him eat the bread and drink from the cup.

Let's **examine** ourselves. If focused on something besides THANKING Jesus & EMBRACING our brothers and sisters, then we should NOT partake of this meal today.

✗ Living in sin instead of turning from sin = we should NOT partake of this meal today.

✗ Not yet a follower of Jesus = this meal is NOT for you...YET!

✓ If you are in right relationship with Jesus and in right relationship with your brothers and sisters - participate!

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives:** Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

Judging Ourselves

1 Corinthians 11:29-32 (CSB)

For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the Body, **eats and drinks judgment on himself.** This is why many are sick and ill among you, and many have fallen asleep. **If we were properly judging ourselves, we would not be judged,** but when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined, so that we may not be condemned with the world.

Are you **recognizing the body** of the Lord Jesus - thanking Jesus and embracing your brothers & sisters? IF NOT, don't be surprised if God brings judgment on you - like **sickness** or death ("**asleep**"). If we are **properly judging ourselves,** we don't have to worry about being **judged by the Lord.**

Embracing Our Brothers & Sisters

1 Corinthians 11:33-34 (CSB)

Therefore, my **brothers and sisters**, when you come together to eat, **welcome one another**. If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you gather together you will not come under judgment. I will give instructions about the other matters whenever I come.

The Lord's Supper = thanking Jesus and embracing your brothers & sisters.

The Lord's Supper - Looking Back

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (CSB)

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**, and when He had given thanks, broke it, and said, "This is **My body**, which is for you. **Do this in remembrance of Me.**" 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.**"

Given thanks is a participle of the term *eucharisteō*, from which we get Eucharist*, meaning "thanksgiving".²

Jesus uses the imagery of this bread to represent what is about to happen to HIMSELF. He is about to be ripped apart - **for you!** May we consume this bread and juice, as we THANK JESUS for giving His body & blood for us!

The Lord's Supper - Looking Forward

1 Corinthians 11:26 (CSB)

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

✓ Let's LIVE like Jesus IS coming back.

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain your answer.
2. How important is the Lord's Supper in your life? How should a person prepare for the Lord's Supper & when might be the best time to do so?
3. **Read 1 Cor 11:17-19.** How do divisions within the Church (i.e. Christians) impact the significance of the Lord's Supper and what are the first steps believers should take to reconcile relationships? Do you have any good ideas on how to make sure our next Lord's Supper might become more relational with other believers?
4. **Read 1 Cor 11:20-22 & 33-34.** How would you respond to the person who says, "The Lord's Supper is a personal thing, just between me and Jesus, and has nothing to do with other Christians."? How might remembering the "Last Supper" of Jesus and His disciples (read Jn 13:12-15) help you see this as a community experience instead of a personal experience?
5. **Read 1 Cor 11:27-32.** Why should we take the Lord's Supper so seriously? Why is it better to examine & judge ourselves rather than being "judged by the Lord" (v31)?
6. **Read 1 Cor 11:23-26.** What do you think would be different about the "last supper" (before Jesus died) compared to the next time the disciples participated in "the Lord's Supper" (after the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus)? Based on v. 26, what is the future hope that followers of Jesus should be prepared for?
7. What are some things that need to change in your life if you knew Jesus was returning this week?
8. What other questions has this teaching or discussion prompted for us to talk about?
9. **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.**

² John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Corinthians, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1984), 272.