

L28: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34: The Lord's Table

Sermon Intro: Review/Summarize

- The Corinthians had layers behind layers of spiritual problems and Paul is picking them back one by one.
- Most recently, the Corinthians were swept away by the way the world holds its' knowledge and wisdom. Paul had already corrected them about the wisdom of God versus the wisdom of this world, but now it was what knowledge they possessed it began to work in them opposite of what it is intended.
 - They took the knowledge and it puffed them up instead of function in charity.
- The Corinthians were not operating in charity toward with weaker brother and the unbeliever outside the local assembly.
 - The Corinthians didn't keep the ordinances of God, that is, the ordinance of headship when praying and prophesying between men and women.

Sermon Preview:

- Now Paul is going to address they are not doing this when they "gather together".
- The very table they are to partake from isn't making the necessary impact it is supposed to.
- This is manifest in their feasts they have and the inconsistent nature to what the Lord's Table is, as well as, in the function and operation of the local church.

Sermon:

(1 Corinthians 11:17) Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.

- **"Now in this that I declare unto you"**
 - Paul is going to declare unto them the Lord's Table and doesn't have praise for them.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:11 - "for it hath been declared unto me of you"
 - :12 - "Now this I say"
 - 1 Corinthians 5:3 - "have judged already"

- 1 Corinthians 11:1 - "be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."
- **"I praise you not"**
 - **"praise"** - Commendation bestowed on a person for his personal virtues or worthy actions, on meritorious actions themselves, or on any thing valuable;
 - 1 Corinthians 11:2 - "Now I praise you"
 - 1 Corinthians 4:5 - "...and then shall every man have praise of God"
- **"that ye come together"**
 - A problem when they gathered together
 - Many in the church today don't gather together
 - Our Father delights in His blood bought sons and daughters sitting at His table, He treasures the communion of His provision to enrich each soul and that stir up each other son and daughter of God.
 - Deut. 31:12-13 - *"Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."*
 - Psalm 133:1 - *"... Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*
 - Acts 2:42 - *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*
 - 1 Corinthians 5:4 - *"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,"*

- 1 Cor. 14:23 - *"If therefore the whole church be come together into one place..."*
- 1 Cor. 16:1-2 - *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."*
- Galatians 6:2 - *"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."*
 - Gal. 6:10 - *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*
- Ephesians 4:1-3 - *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*
- Philippians 2:1-2 - *"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."*
- *Colossians 2:2, 3:16, 1 Timothy 3:15*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11(-13) - *"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."*
- Hebrews 10:24-25 - *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*
- **"not for the better, but for the worse"**
 - Some churches are just hoping their people gather together, the Corinthians gathered together not for the better.
 - **"better"** - Having good qualities in a greater degree than another
 - More advantageous; To be better off, to be in a better condition; to advance, to support, to give advantage to
 - **"worse"** - More evil; more bad or ill; more depraved and corrupt; in a moral sense; In a physical sense, in regard to health, more sick; The loss; the disadvantage.

(1 Corinthians 11:18) For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that

there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

- **"For first of all"**
 - More than one reason
- **"when ye come together in the church"**
 - When they gather in one place
- **"I hear that there be divisions among you"**
 - **"divisions"** - splits, schisms, gap
- **"and I partly believe it."**

(1 Corinthians 11:19) For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

- **"For there must be also heresies among you"**
 - Divisions come from heresies
 - A certain belief and/or conduct
- **"that they which are approved"**
 - Tried and approved, error, divisions, and heresies reveal those approved.
- **"may be made manifest among you."**
 - Shew those approved among them by what is said, believed, and/or done.

(1 Corinthians 11:20) When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

- **"When ye come together therefore into one place"**
 - Gathering in the local church
- **"this is not to eat the Lord's supper."**
 - They are not to gather together to eat the Lord's supper
- **Difference between the Lord's Table and the Lord's Supper**
 - Lord's Table - not a full-blown meal

- Although in 1 Corinthians Paul is talking about meals they are eating
- 1 Corinthians 10:16
 - "the cup of blessing"
 - "the bread which we break"

 - Something to Christ = charity
 - Blood
 - Body

 - Something to the Body of Christ = charity
 - Blood
 - Body - one bread, partaking of that one bread
- Lord's Supper - meal, identical to the idol love feasts
 - Enough food to be full and drunken
- There is much more to this passage than just the difference between the Lord's table and the Corinthians making it into the Lord's supper.
 - This is Paul's reminder of the Lord's Table and the meaning of the bread and cup and its' implications.
 - There is not only a physical table, but more importantly a spiritual table

(1 Corinthians 11:21) For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

- "for" - further explanation of the Lord's supper
- "in eating"
 - "every one taketh before other his own supper"
 - They are taking "before other", not selfless thinking
 - The result -
 - "and one is hungry" - the action of them taking own supper leaves other hungry, others are full
 - "and another is drunken" - the action of taking too much wine is drunkenness
 - Romans 13:13
 - Ephesians 5:18
- Paul isn't concerned with their eating, but how they are eating and what it reflects

concerning their identity as "the one bread".

(1 Corinthians 11:22) What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

- **"What?"** - to how great a degree, "What" is used interrogatively and elliptically, as equivalent to what will be the consequence?
- **"have ye not houses to eat and to drink in?"** - yes they do
- **"or despise ye the church of God"** - attitude of their actions in taking before another
- **"and shame them that have not?"** - their actions cause shame on others - isms, divisions
- **"What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise you not."**
 - No praise in their actions toward their body members

(1 Corinthians 11:23) For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

- **"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you"**
 - Paul received of the Lord the full declaration of the new testament
 - Paul received of the Lord the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the mystery
- **"that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:"**
 - There is so much packed into what the Lord was doing in connection with the new testament.
 - Selfless charity, giving of yourself, even in eating
 - The breaking of bread is to represent the spiritual doctrine of the Cross

(1 Corinthians 11:24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

- Break your body in remembrance of Christ

(1 Corinthians 11:25) After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

- The spiritual things of the new testament are the source and means of giving yourself to another

(1 Corinthians 11:26) For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

- The question then is do we "shew" the Lord's death when eating physically or spiritually.
 - I understand it is the actual partaking, but with the mind of what it represents
- **"For as often"** - physically we do once a quarter, but spiritually we are to partaking of that bread all the time in giving of ourselves to one another.
- **"ye do shew the Lord's death till He come"**
 - **"shew"** - spectacle, world, men, and angels
 - The love of God displayed is in His death and therefore when we love our neighbour as ourselves we shew the Lord's death.
- Often till He come

(1 Corinthians 11:27) Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

- **"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily"**
 - It isn't when you drink, if you chew this manner times, you partake with dirty hands
- So the physical partaking is to draw our remembrance upon what He did and what He did is to be the source of our behavior to others.
- **"unworthily"** - 1 Cor. 2 - they are unworthy
 - If we don't love our neighbor as ourselves, as Christ loved us then we are eat and drink unworthily
- **"shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."**
 - We talk so much regarding guilt and how we are to have no guilt as believers
 - This verse teaches the opposite - it teaches if you eat and drink unworthily your guilty of what you eat and are.

- One bread - partakers of that one bread
- Ephesians 5; Colossians 1
- Guilt probably intensifies, knowing that you are fully forgiven
 - 2 Corinthians 7:6-11
 - Two sorrows
 - Approved and clear yourself

(1 Corinthians 11:28) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

- **"But let a man examine himself"**
 - 2 Corinthians 13:5
- **"and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."**
 - Eat and drink by examining two things:
 - Are we eating and drinking of the spiritual things of the New Testament that Christ died for? And,
 - Are you as being broken for the one bread that you are part of?
 - Gal. 5:13-14, 22
 - Gal. 6:1-2
 - Phi. 2:1-5
 - Col. 1:8, 3:8-14
 - 1 Tim. 1:4-5

(1 Corinthians 11:29) For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

- **"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily"** - already stated
- **"eateth and drinketh damnation to himself"**
 - Romans 8
 - Romans 14
 - 1 Cor. 3
- **"not discerning the Lord's body."**
 - "discern" - Distinguishing; seeing; discovering; knowing; judging.
 2. a. Having power to discern; capable of seeing, discriminating, knowing and judging; sharp-sighted; penetrating; acute; as a discerning man or mind.

(1 Corinthians 11:30) For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

- **"For this cause many are"** - identifiers of spiritual condition
 - **"weak"** -
 - **"sickly"** -
 - **"sleep"** -
 - Paul expresses numerous times to "awake"

(1 Corinthians 11:31) For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

- **"For if we would judge ourselves"**
 - So many judge others, but don't judge ourselves
 - Don't examine themselves, don't discern the Lord's body, don't think of others better than themselves.
 - **"we should not be judged."** - by God

(1 Corinthians 11:32) But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

- **"But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord"** - recognize our guiltiness, recognize a lack of charity
 - Receive the chastening of His word - 1 Thessalonians 2:11, 2 Timothy 3:16; Heb. 12:5-11
- Receive it now so that we don't receive it at the judgment seat of Christ
 - The loss will be compatible with the ways of the world

(1 Corinthians 11:33) Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

- It isn't that they can't come together to eat, but do so that is worthy of the Lord's Table

(1 Corinthians 11:34) And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

- If you're hungry don't eat at the church, for all you will do is be selfish in your eating, rather if you are to eat when you come together reflect the one bread you partake of by thinking of others and sharing.

Sermon Conclusion: Review/Summarize