

- I) V23 INTRO: For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you; that the Paul is bringing a word of correction for dishonoring the Agape Feast  
**HE ASKED THE QUESTION**
- II) If you are dishonoring the community dinner in this manner, **why have them at all?**  
**SADLY**
- III) For **some** this meeting was **simply a meal** where they would only eat and drink  
There was no spiritual significance to them but only an opportunity to party  
**APPLICATION**
- IV) This attitude is similar to those who come to weddings for the party  
We have had this in the past: someone said the wedding was **too religious**  
I remember one of my first weddings that someone tried to sneak in beer  
**PAUL ASKS**
- V) V22 Could you not eat and drink at home?  
In other words, why have an Agape Feast at all?
- VI) The reason to have such meals was for true Christian fellowship  
They gathered together, shared food, and strengthened their community  
They cared for the poor in providing a meal for them, revealing love
- VII) As spiritually significant it was, it was also open to being abused  
Some were eating before the poor arrived, others were thinking only of themselves, getting drunk, forgetting about brotherly love, and others inciting divisions!
- VIII) This didn't just happen in Corinth, it happened in other churches  
Part of what was happening included false teachers creeping in  
Jude 1:12 speaks of these people as blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves...
- IX) Paul wonders if they expected him to praise them for such carnality (V17, 22)  
Of course he wouldn't: How could he put a seal of approval on this?  
**THE FACT IS**
- X) The Agape Feast was to be a place of love and unity, not division  
It was a meal shared by the community, revealing their love for one another  
Communion would follow the agape meal, celebrating love for one another  
**WHY COULD HE NOT PRAISE THEM?**
- XI) They were desecrating the communion services by their sinful behavior  
**Their carnality** caused the communion service to become only **a ritual**

- I) It was becoming gutted of its true, spiritual meaning  
Like Christmas and Easter has become in our day: excuses to party  
Unlike Christmas and Easter, communion was instituted by Jesus Himself  
**AT THIS POINT**
- II) Paul gives his teaching on the sacredness of communion, the Lord's supper  
**HE BEGINS**
- III) V23 **I received** from the Lord that which I also **delivered** to you  
**I received** speaks of the apostolic authority given to him to proclaim the gospel
- IV) This seems to be speaking of his receiving this understanding from Jesus  
This is something he repeats  
1 Co 15:3 I delivered to you first of all that which **I also received**
- V) This was not something he had learned from the other apostles  
He said something similar in Galatians  
Gal. 1:11-12 I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. **I did not receive it from any man**, nor was I taught it; rather, **I received it by revelation** from Jesus Christ
- VI) V23 I received from the Lord that which I also **delivered to you**  
The meaning of communion was not something he invented, it was from Jesus
- VII) This was not the first time they had heard this: he had told them of this before  
Since they already knew this, they were wilfully disregarding instructions
- VIII) Because of this, they were guilty of sinning against the Lord  
Jas 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, **to him it is sin**  
**HE NOW SPEAKS OF HOW COMMUNION STARTED**
- IX) V23 the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread  
He begins with the historical setting and the circumstances
- X) The **apostles** were gathered together, celebrating Passover together  
Judas, the betrayer of Jesus, was present that night amongst the twelve  
**PICTURE**
- XI) Judas was **a type** of the **false believer** present at a love feast  
Judas appeared like a follower of Jesus, but in fact he was a betrayer  
These false believers were like Judas, disregarding what Jesus was about to do

- I) On that night, Jesus knew that this was his Last Supper with His men  
Jesus ministered to His men and He shared Passover with them
- II) That night, Jesus had told the 12 the one of them would betray Him  
Mt 26:21-22 **As they were eating**, He said Assuredly I say to you one of you will betray Me. And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and **each one of them** began to say to Him, **Lord**, is it I?
- III) Notice how Matthew records that each one began to say to Him **Lord**, is it I?  
This is a general statement recording the overall response of His men
- IV) Each of the men said Lord, **is it I**, and then records Jesus' answer  
Mt 26:23-25 He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." Then Judas, **who was betraying Him**, answered and said, "**Rabbi, is it I?**" He said to him, "You have said it."
- V) Judas was present when Jesus inaugurated communion  
Lu 22:19-21 He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."  
Likewise He also took the cup **after supper**, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. But behold, **the hand of My betrayer** is with Me on the table
- VI) Judas had heard His teaching, preached, saw the works, and performed works  
In spite of all of this, he determined to reject Jesus and sell Him out
- VII) He became an example of taking the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner (V27)  
**WE BEGIN**
- VIII) V23-24 Jesus **took bread** and after **giving thanks**, broke it and said Take, eat; this  
The bread is **unleavened** bread: Leaven, or yeast, is a symbol of sin (1 Co 5:6-8)  
Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth
- IX) Mt 26:26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take and eat; **this is My body**  
V24 This is My Body: This bread is **to represent** My body

- I) It did not become **His actual Body**, but represented that He gives spiritual life  
Jn 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am **the bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.  
Jn 6:51 I am **the living bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world
- II) **Which is broken**: This is in reference to His crucifixion  
It includes the beatings He endured, including the stripes He received
- III) His Body **was broken** when He was beaten, and ultimately killed  
Is 53:4-5 Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.  
1 Pe 2:24 He himself **bore our sins in His body** on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you **have been healed**.
- IV) This is My body which is **broken for you** (Jn 3:16)  
I became flesh for you, I suffered and died for you so you **might be saved**  
1 Pe 3:18 Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, **to bring you to God**
- V) V25-26 In the same manner He took the cup **after supper** saying This cup is the We need to consider the Passover supper to understand this
- VI) **Passover** is the celebration of deliverance from **Egyptian bondage**  
The meal begins with a blessing over the first cup of red wine and passing it to the others present. There are 4 cups of wine passed around during the meal.  
**REMINDER**
- VII) The 4 cups represent various promises God gave to Israel  
Ex 6:6-8 "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and **I will bring you out** from under the yoke of the Egyptians. **I will free you** from being slaves to them, and **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And **I will bring you** to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.'"

I) The four cups of wine are drunk at certain points of the meal

The seder begins with a blessing over the first of four cups of wine: "Blessed art thou, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who hast created the fruit of the vine."

II) Jesus blessed the first cup in Lu 22:17-18

Lu 22:17-18 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

III) After the first cup was drunk, **bitter herbs** dipped in a fruit sauce were eaten and a message was given on the meaning of Passover. Then the first part of a hymn, the Hallel, was sung. The hallel was comprised of Ps 113-118, the first part sung usually was either Ps 113 or 114.

IV) After the 2nd cup was passed, the host breaks and passes around the unleavened bread. Then the meal, which consisted of the roasted sacrificial lamb, was eaten.

The second cup is to remind them of the Ten Plagues and **the suffering** of the Egyptians when they hardened their heart to the Lord. In order not to rejoice over the suffering of our enemies (Pr 24:17), they spill a drop of wine (which is a symbol of joy) as they recite each of the Ten Plagues, thus remembering that their joy is diminished at the suffering of others.

V) After prayer the 3rd cup (Redemption) was passed and Ps 115-18 was sung

The 3<sup>rd</sup> cup is taken after the meal. It is **the cup of redemption**, reminding them of the shed blood of the innocent Lamb which brought Israel's redemption from Egypt.

Jesus took the third cup in Lu 22:20: In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. This is the cup of redemption from slavery into freedom.

VI) The 4<sup>th</sup> cup celebrated the coming kingdom, drunk immediately before leaving

This is the Cup of Hallel, "praise," and believers see in John 17, that Jesus took time to praise and thank the Lord at the end of the Passover Seder, his last supper. The spotless Passover Lamb had praise on his lips as he went to his death.

VII) Mt recorded the events of that night while they were celebrating the Passover meal

Mt 26:26-28 As they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is My body. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the **remission of sins**.

- I) **Remission**: Release from bondage or imprisonment; forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty
- II) V25 This is the new covenant in My blood (New covenant)  
This is the way that God fulfilled His promise to make a new covenant  
Jer. 31:31 Behold, the days come, says the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
- III) The cup reminds the people of the Blood smeared over doorposts in Egypt  
The Angel of Death Passed Over, and those covered by the blood were spared  
This cup reminds us of the blood shed by Jesus for the remission of sins
- IV) V25 This cup is the new covenant in **My blood shed for you**  
This would speak of His death on behalf of others  
1 Pe 1:18-19 you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with **the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.  
Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses (failings, slips, false steps), according to the riches of His grace
- V) Do this **in remembrance** of Me: Remember My 1 time for all time sacrifice for you  
Recapture in your mind not only the event, but the emotions, reality, and **significance** of such an act  
Ro 6:9-10 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead *dies no more*; death has no more dominion over Him. For in that He died, *He died to sin once*: but in that he lives, He lives to God.
- VI) V26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup **you remember**  
When we eat communion, we remember His sacrifice and His soon return for us
- VII) V27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup in an unworthy manner  
To profane communion reveals that you are unsaved, not valuing His death  
You are showing the same contempt that his killers had for Him
- VIII) We dishonor the entire meaning of His life and grace  
Heb. 10:29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?



- I) V28 But let a man **examine himself** and so let him eat of that bread and drink of  
Sift out evil by looking closely at your own hearts: do you understand what it is  
2 Co 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.  
Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you --unless, of course, you fail the test?
- II) V29 He who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment  
The *party spirit* that the Corinthians were plagued by invaded communion  
The Lord's supper was to be sacred, unifying the church in love!
- III) Instead, it became another place where division could thrive  
The rich people contributed more, but made sure they took more  
The poor who could contribute little were or nothing were left hungry
- IV) Paul made it clear that God does not ignore this kind of spirit  
Those doing these things eats and drinks judgment to himself
- V) This speaks of various temporal judgments that God uses to chastise  
Why does God bring judgment? For not discerning the Lord's body  
**FIRST**
- VI) For not recognizing the fact that they are all one in Jesus (12:13)  
**SECOND**
- VII) For not recognizing the sacredness of communion: it is not an ordinary meal  
**THIRD**
- VIII) For not considering what the death of Jesus accomplished
- IX) V30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep  
Many are feeble and constantly sick, and others are actually dying  
This is for not realizing that through His death blessings are made possible
- X) They should be seeking God and by faith trusting in Him for His aide  
Instead, they remain weak and sick because they don't believe He can help
- XI) To avoid God's chastisement, correctly discern the purpose of communion  
Judas missed the meaning of this, and the result was eternal loss
- XII) V33-34 Therefore my brethren when you come together to eat wait for one another  
Show brotherly love for one another: If you don't, you will be chastened (1Jn5:16)