

Celebrating The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:20-34

I. Intro

- Anecdote

- Debate

- What is the Lord's Supper? - - and how should Christians celebrate this controversial sacrament?
- Before we can answer these questions - we should take a moment to ask...
 - ...which authoritative sources provide us with the information we need to properly define - and celebrate the Lord's Supper?
 - We could look to the early creeds and confessions - which have been embraced by the universal church.
 - Or we could comb through the decrees created by the ecumenical councils.
 - We could read the writings of the early church Fathers and apologists.
 - Or - we could go straight to the source of all theological truth - which is the Holy Word of God.

II. Outline

- Points

- Celebration

- When it comes to our questions concerning the Lord's Supper - - the creeds and confessions have helped to create the controversies.

- The same is true of the ecumenical councils - and the early church fathers.
 - That being the case - we will all do well consider what Paul wrote about the Lord's supper.
- And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...the Lord's Supper is a celebration of Communion
 2. ...the Lord's Supper is a celebration of Commemoration
 3. ...the Lord's Supper is a celebration of Consecration
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 11...
 - ...where we find Paul - helping his audience to understand the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

III. Communion

● Set up

• Context

- As we make our way to the 11th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put out text - back into it's context.
- It'll help us to remember that - it was in the previous chapter of this letter - where Paul first addressed his concerns...
- ...about those who were confusing the table of the Lord - with the table of demons.
- It's for this reason that he took the time to remind them that cup of blessing which we bless - is the communion of the blood of Christ.
- Not only that - but the bread which we break - is the communion of the body of Christ.

- And now - here in our text today - we find Paul - challenging them about the way they were celebrating the Lord's Supper.
- With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 11 beginning there at verse 20 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 11:20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.

1Co 11:21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

1Co 11:22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

1Co 11:27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1Co 11:29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

1Co 11:30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

1Co 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

1Co 11:33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

1Co 11:34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

- Supper
 - Here in our text today - we find Paul - challenging the Christians in Corinth - concerning the way they were celebrating the Lord's supper.
 - Just to be clear - when Paul raised the issue of the Lord's Supper - there in verse 20...
 - ...he was actually referring to the sacred sacrament that we call communion.
 - That word - Supper - was translated from a Greek word - which was used in reference a formal meal - usually held in the evening.
 - The same Greek word was used by the pagans - in reference to their ceremonial meals - during which they worshipped their idols.
 - It was during those suppers - when the adherents of the pagan religious sought to commune with their false gods.
 - Sadly - they were actually engaging in a satanic counterfeit of the Lord's Supper.
- Lord's Supper
 - Just to be clear - it'll help you to know that the Lord's Supper is the sacrament - which was initiated during the Last Supper.
 - With this as our focus - let's take some time to consider Luke's account of the last supper.
 - Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Luke chapter 22.
 - And as we make our way to the twenty second chapter of Luke's gospel account...

- ...I wanna take a moment to point out that the last supper was a Passover Seder.
- And it was during that dinner - when the Lord Jesus used the symbols of unleavened bread - and the fruit of the vine...
- ...as sacramental symbols of his body - and blood.
- Last Supper

- Let's consider how Jesus put it - here in Luke chapter 22 - look with me beginning there at verse 15 - where He declared...

Luk 22:15 "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

Luk 22:16 "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Luk 22:17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves;

Luk 22:18 "for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Luk 22:19 And 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."

Luk 22:20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - using this Passover meal to institute the sacrament of communion.
- And what this means is that - the last supper Jesus ate - prior to His crucifixion...
- ...became the model of the Lord's Supper - which we celebrate - every time we take communion.
- And it's for this reason that Paul felt the need to rebuke the Christians in Corinth...

- ...for the way that they were failing to properly celebrate the Lord's supper.
- Not
- With this as our focus - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians 11 - - so that we can consider how Paul put it.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 20 - where he declared...

1Co 11:20 ...when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.

1Co 11:21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - describing the disunity that was taking place during the communal dinner - known as the love feast.
- And while it was customary for Christians to have a communal meals - similar to our pot luck fellowships...
 - ...the Love Feast would be followed by communion - as the Christians spent time celebrating the Lord's Supper.
 - Sadly - there were Christians at the church in Corinth - who were failing to grasp the communal aspect of this celebration.
 - Some were guilty of gluttony - while others showed up for the free meal - - and then there were those who were intoxicated.
- Communion
- Clearly - the Christians in Corinth were failing to grasp the concept of communion.
- And just to be clear - I should take a moment to point out that - the Love Feasts which included the sacrament of the Lord's supper...

- ...were supposed to serve as a celebration of the communion we have with Christ Jesus.
- And just to be clear - the Greek word which is rendered - communion - is not only used in reference to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper ...
- ...but - the same word is used in reference to the communion that we should have with other Christians - here in our fellowship of faith.
- Unfortunately - the Christians in Corinth were failing to celebrate the Lord's Supper in this way.
 - And it's for this reason that Paul rebuked them for the way that they were treating the sacramental supper with shame.
- Agenda

- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians 11 - look with me again - beginning again there at verse 21 - where he declared...

1Co 11:21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

1Co 11:22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

- Rather than celebrating the unity of Christian community - through the sacrament of the Lord's supper...
- ...the Christians in Corinth were showing up the love feast with their own selfish motives.
- And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged those who had their own agenda - to simply stay home.
- The Lord's Supper isn't about our own individual desires - no - instead - it's about the communion we all have with Christ Jesus.

- Therefore - those who showed up with a self-centered agenda were demonstrating their contempt for the Christian church.

- Shame

- I like the way that the scholars who created the New English Translation rendered verse 22 - they put it like this...

1Co 11:22 Do you not have houses so that you can eat and drink? Or are you trying to show contempt for the church of God by shaming those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I will not praise you for this!

- Paul was unwilling to applaud the Christians in Corinth - for the way that they were celebrating the Lord's Supper.
 - The reason why was due to the fact that - those who celebrate the Lord's Supper according to their own personal agenda...
 - ...are simultaneously bringing SHAME to their Christian community.
 - That word - shame - found there in verse 22 - was translated from a Greek word - which speaks of the dishonor that brings disgrace.
 - What this means is that - those who celebrate communion with selfish intent - are dishonoring their brothers and sisters in Christ.

- Communal

- In order to further grasp the point that Paul was making - we should take a moment to revisit something that he wrote in the previous chapter.
 - Let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 10 - - because - it's there in the 10th chapter of 1st Corinthians...
 - ...where we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that - the celebration of the Lord's supper...

- ...is a communal sacrament - which should be celebrated within our Christian community.
- And while I don't mean to suggest that it's wrong for Christians to celebrate communion at home...
 - ...we'll do well to realize that - the word - communion - carries with it the implication of community.

● Application

- Together
- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 10 - look with me beginning there at verse 16 - where he declared...

1Co 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

1Co 10:17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - referring to the Lord's supper - as communion - which comes from the Greek word - koinōnia.
- The cup of blessing which contains the fruit of the vine - symbolizes the communion we have - through the blood of Christ.
- And the unleavened bread we break - symbolizes the communion we have - through the body of Christ?
- Paul then put a finer tip on this point by assuring helping his audience to understand that...
 - ...the sacrament of communion is also a symbol of the unity that we have - through the sacrifice of our Savior - Jesus
 - And what this means is that - the celebration of the Lord's Supper should take place within our Christian community

- Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...

1. ...the Lord's Supper is not only a celebration of Communion...

2. ...but - the Lord's Supper is also a celebration of Commemoration.

- Now - in order to explain what I mean - - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians 11...
- ...where we find Paul - reminding his readers about the instructions that Jesus presented - concerning the Lord's Supper.
- Let's pick up our study - beginning there at verse 23 - where Paul declared...

IV. Commemoration

- Text

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

- Received

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - restating the instructions that he received from the Lord.

- And while it's true that Paul didn't become a believer - until after the death - burial - and resurrection of our Redeemer - Jesus...
- ...it's also true that Paul received personal revelation from the Lord Jesus.
- It's in Galatians chapter 1 - where Paul presented his testimony of the three years he spent in Arabia.
 - And it was there where he received the revelation of Jesus Christ — which not only included the gospel message of grace...
 - ...but - Paul also received these instructions - regarding the Lord's Supper.
- Instructions
 - With this as our focus - let's consider the sacramental instructions that Paul received from the Lord.
 - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 23 - it's there where he declared...

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;
 1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
 1Co 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - recounting the instructions that he received - regarding the sacramental celebration of the Lord's Supper.
 - And while there are those who insist that the bread and the cup are more than just symbolic reminders of our Savior's sacrifice...
 - ...this was precisely the point that our Messiah was making - when He declared - - do this in remembrance of me.

- Notice that He didn't say - "do this because - IT IS ME..."
 - No - instead - the Lord Jesus declared - "do this in remembrance of Me."
- Remembrance
 - Now - that word - remembrance - which is found there in verses 24 and 25 - was translated from a Greek word - which refers to a recollection.
 - Greek scholar - Spiros Zohdiates - also informs us that the same Greek word speaks of a commemoration.
 - Zohdiates also described this word - as a memorial - and specifically - the memorial as applied to the Lord's Supper.
 - He elaborated on this definition - by assuring us that the phrase - "In remembrance of me" ...
 - ...means that the participant should remember Christ and the expiatory sacrifice of His death.
 - What this means is that - the Lord's supper is a memorial ceremony during which we commemorate the sacrifice of our Savior.
- Debate
 - Now - I realize that this position - which is known as Memorialism - is rejected by those who teach Transubstantiation.
 - And one reason why is based on a controversial statement that our Savior said - to a group of Jews in Capernaum.
 - With this as our focus - hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our John chapter 6...
 - ...and as we make our way to the 6th chapter of John - I should take a moment to point out that...

- ...the leaders of both the Roman Catholic Church - and the Orthodox Church Teach the doctrine of transubstantiation...
- ...which is based on the belief that the bread and the wine literally and substantially become the actual body and blood of Jesus.
 - And one reason for this belief is based on the statement that Jesus made - here in John chapter 6.
- Literal?
- Let's consider how He put it - beginning there at verse 53 - - it's there where the Lord Jesus declared...

Jhn 6:53 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.

Jhn 6:54 "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Jhn 6:55 "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

Jhn 6:56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Jhn 6:57 "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

Jhn 6:58 "This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

- Without debate - a surface level understanding of this passage would lead us to believe that...
- ...the Lord Jesus has commanded every Christian to eat His flesh - and drink His blood.
- And yet - we must not forget that our Messiah was known for using Metaphors - in order to make a point.
- For example - the Lord Jesus referred to Himself as the door of the sheep - and the light of the world.

- Not only that - - but - He also called Himself the vine - in which believers abide - - as well as the bread of life.
- Not Literal
 - Now - listen - I'm sure we all realize that - it would be a mistake for us to think that the Lord Jesus is literally a door.
 - Not only that - but - it would be foolish for us to think that Jesus is literally a light - or a vine.
 - And in the case of communion - - we must not forget that - the Lord Jesus didn't literally offer His body - and His blood.
 - Now - remember - He was physically present - - when He broke the bread - and said - this is my body.
 - And His blood was flowing through His veins - when He passed the cup - and declared: "This cup is the new covenant in My blood."
 - Clearly - the bread - and the cup - were both symbols of His sacrifice - and not the literal body and blood.
 - And it's for this reason that He told Paul that the Lord's supper was a sacramental commemoration of His sacrifice.
- Memorial
 - Further proof of my point can be found back in 1st Corinthians - and so - let's make our way back to the 11th chapter of 1st Corinthians.
 - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 23 - where Paul declared...

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

- After reminding his readers that Christ Jesus described the Lord's Supper as a celebration of commemoration...
- ...he went on to describe the sacramental elements - as bread - and the cup - which of course contained the fruit of the vine.
- Notice with me again - there in verse 26 - where Paul declared: "as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup..."
- Now - listen - if Paul believed in the doctrine of Transubstantiation - then - what he would've said is this...
- ...As often as you eat this FLESH and drink this BLOOD.
- Transubstantiation
- Proof of my point is found in the fact that those who teach transubstantiation - will insist that - the bread and cup literally turn into the body and blood.
- Let's consider how John Chrysostom - the Archbishop of Constantinople explained in back in the 4th century - here's how he put it...

"It is not man who causes what is present to become the body and blood of Christ, but Christ himself, who was crucified for us. The priest is the representative when he pronounces those words, but the power and the grace are those of the Lord."

- So - according to John Chrysostom - who is now considered to be a Saint by both the Roman Catholics - and Greek Orthodox...
- ...the sacramental elements of the Last Supper become the literal body - and literal blood of Jesus...

- ...after the priest pronounces the words - “This is my body” - over the bread - and over the chalice, “This is my blood.”
- Now - if this is true - then the parishioner is no longer consuming bread and wine - no - instead - they’re eating flesh and blood.

- Incorrect

- And listen - IF Paul were actually a proponent of Transubstantiation - then verse 26 would read in this way...

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this **body** and drink this **blood**, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

- If the doctrine of Transubstantiation was a Biblical doctrine - then - this would be the right place for Paul to confirm it.
- And yet - to the contrary - Paul assured the Christians in Corinth - that those who were celebrating the Lord’s Supper...
 - ...were actually consuming the sacramental symbols of bread - and the fruit of the vine.
 - And what this means is that - the Lord’s Supper is commemorative memorial...
 - ...which is designed to remind us about the sacrifice of our Savior - Jesus.

- Eschatology

- Not only that - but - the Lord’s Supper is also a commemoration of Christ’s promise to prepare a place for us.
- In order to explain my point - let’s take another look at verse 26 - where Paul declared...

1Co 11:26 ...as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

- Christian - listen - when we celebrate the Lord's Supper - we're not only commemorating His death on the cross...
- ...but - we're also remembering His resurrection from the tomb.
 - And we're not only remembering His resurrection from the tomb - but...
 - ...we're also commemorating the covenant that Christ Jesus made...
 - ...on the day when He prophetically promised receive His disciples to Himself.

● Application

- Remember
 - We find this promise - in John chapter 14 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where the Lord Jesus declared...

Jhn 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

Jhn 14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Jhn 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Jhn 14:4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

- As we consider this promise - - we can rejoice in knowing that the One Who died for our sins upon the cross...
 - ...is also the One Who rose up from the tomb - on the third day - just as He promised.
 - That being the case - we can also rejoice in knowing that Christ Jesus is preparing a place for those who trust in Him.
 - And it's for this reason that the Lord's Supper is not only a celebration that commemorates the cross of Christ...

- ...but - the Lord's Supper is also a celebration that commemorates the prophetic promise that Jesus presented...
- ...when He assured His disciples that there's coming a day - when He will receive us to Himself.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...

1. ...the Lord's Supper is not only a celebration of Communion...

2. ...and - the Lord's Supper is not only a celebration of Commemoration...

3. ...but - the Lord's Supper is also a celebration of Consecration

- Now - in order to explain what I mean - - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians 11...

- ...where we find Paul - reminding his readers about the instructions that Jesus presented - concerning the Lord's Supper.

- Let's pick up our study - beginning there at verse 27 - where Paul declared...

V. Consecration

● Text

1Co 11:27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1Co 11:29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

1Co 11:30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

1Co 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

1Co 11:33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

1Co 11:34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

- Unworthy

- Here in the final verses of this chapter - we find Paul - sharing a word of warning - with those who were taking communion in an unworthy manner.

- Now - - that phrase - unworthy manner - which is found there in verses 27 and 29...

- ...was translated from a Greek word - which can also be rendered - unfit - or - irreverent.

- Greek Scholar - Spiros Zohdicates - expanded upon this definition by describing those who...

- ...treat the Lord's Supper as a common meal without attributing to it and its elements their proper value.

- And just to be clear - Paul wasn't suggesting that Christians must be WORTHY - before we can take communion...

- ...no - instead - he was challenging those who were taking communion - in a sacrilegious way.

- Examine

- It's for this reason that he encouraged the Christians in Corinth - to engage in some self-examination - before celebrating the Lord's Supper.

- Let's consider how Paul put it - there in verse 28 - where he declared...

1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

- Now - when Paul encouraged his audience to EXAMINE themselves - he was using a Greek word...
- ...which was used of that which is scrutinized - in order to see whether a thing is genuine or not.
- And in the context of this passage - Paul was commanding the Christians in Corinth to scrutinize their communion with Christ...
- ...before receiving the symbols of our Savior's sacrifice.
- And listen - he was also calling every Christian to engage in the same self-examination
- Tense
- For the sake of clarity - it'll help you to know that the Greek word rendered - examine is found in the present imperative.
- And what this means is that - Paul was calling every Christian to subject themselves to this self-scrutiny - before we celebrate the Lord's Supper.
- In other words - we should examine our hearts - in order to make sure that we are approaching the Lord's table...
- ...with a heart that is filled with reverent respect for our Redeemer.
- And one reason why is because - those who take communion in an unworthy manner - are inviting the chastisement of the Lord.
- Judgment
- Let's consider how Paul put it - there in verse 29 - where we learn that...

1Co 11:29 ...he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

- Now - those who embrace the unbiblical doctrine of Transubstantiation will use this verse to insist that...
- ...the Christians in Corinth were taking communion in an unworthy manner...
- ...because they didn't believe that they were eating the body of Christ.
 - What they fail to realize is that - Paul was actually referring to the church - which is the body of Christ.
 - Proof of my point is found in the next chapter - where Paul presents an in depth description of the mystical body of Christ.
- Body
 - With this as our focus - let's jump ahead to 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - and let's consider the summary statement of this chapter.
 - Look with me - there at verse 27 - where Paul declared...

1Co 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
 - Christian - listen - every believer in the world today - makes up the mystical body of Christ.
 - And according to Paul - the Christians who consume communion in an unworthy manner...
 - ...are drinking judgment to themselves -and the reason why is because they're failing to discern the Lord's body - which is the church.
 - In other words - they're allowing their personal agenda to create division within the body of Christ.
 - And in this way - they're simultaneously inviting the leaders of the church - to exercise church discipline.
 - Separation

- I like the way that the scholars who created the Hebrew Names Version rendered 1st Corinthians 11 verse 29 - they put it like this...

1Co 11:29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he doesn't discern the Lord's body.

- Now - that word - discern - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those who make a distinction through discrimination.
- The same word was used of those who strive - contend - and dispute with others.
- And in the context of this passage - Paul was referring to those who were failing to properly celebrate the Lord's Supper...
- ...and the reason why was because they were separating themselves from those they disagreed with - in a spirit of hostility.
- And in this way - they were inviting the judgment of church discipline.
- Sick
- Not only that - but - those who were treating the Lord's Supper as an opportunity to cause division - were also inviting the judgment of God.
- Let's consider how Paul put it here in 1st Corinthians 11 - look with me again beginning there at verse 30 - where Paul declared...

1Co 11:30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

1Co 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...

- ...those who fail to properly discern the body of Christ - will eventually receive the loving correction of the Lord.
- And while it's true that there is no condemnation for those who trust in the Lord Jesus...
 - ...it's also true that He will chasten the backslidden believer - who is causing division - in their fellowship of faith.
 - And listen - this chastening could include sickness - and even death.
- Always?
 - Now - this is not to suggest that all sickness is evidence of the Lord's loving correction.
 - And so - we shouldn't make the mistake of thinking that - every sick Christian is being chastened by the Lord.
 - At the same time - the backslidden believer who is causing contentious conflicts in their fellowship of faith...
 - ...will do well to realize that - the Lord chastens those whom He loves.
 - And while it's true that no chastening seems to be joyful for the present - because - it's a painful process...
 - ...we can rejoice in knowing that those who will receive the loving correction of the Lord...
 - ...will become those believers who will learn to consecrate themselves - as we learn to discern the body of Christ.
- Wait
 - In order to explain what I mean - let's consider the encouragement that Paul presented - here in the final verses of this chapter.

- Look with me - beginning there at verse 33 - where Paul declared...

1Co 11:33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

1Co 11:34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

- Rather than showing up to church - in order to accomplish our own selfish agenda...
 - ...we should become those believers - who learn to wait for one another - as we properly discern the body of Christ.
 - And while this most certainly pertains to the celebration of the Lord's Supper...
 - ...we must also remember that - communion is designed to remind us about the unity of Christian community.
 - And it's for this reason that the Lord's Supper should be a celebration of Consecration.
- Judge
 - In order to make my cause - let's back up and take another look at verse 31 where Paul declared...

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.
 - In other words - if we would take the time to evaluate and judge ourselves honestly - by recognizing our shortcomings and correcting our behavior...
 - ...then - we will also avoid the judgment of our leaders - and the chastening of the Lord.
 - With this as the goal - we should take a moment to examine our own lives by asking...

- ...am I failing to properly discern the Lord's body - by Judging others with unrighteous judgment?
- Or - am I taking the time to examine my own faults and failures - so I can celebrate the Lord's supper with Sacrificial consecration?

● Application

• Sacrifice

- With this question in mind - let's consider the challenge that Paul presented in Romans chapter 12 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- Christian - listen - those who come to church - in order to accomplish their own will...
- ...are failing to discern the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- That being the case - Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to follow the example of the Lord Jesus...
- ...by presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice - which is holy consecrated - and set apart for the service of God.
- And with this as the goal - the celebration of the Lord's Supper should always remind us that...
- ...we've been called to consecrate ourselves - for the service of God - - because - this is His will for every Christian

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

• Points

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - I wanna conclude this sermon by reminding you that...

1. ...the Lord's Supper is a celebration of Communion...

- ...and it's for this reason that Paul encouraged every Christian — to celebrate the Lord's Supper...
- ...by patiently waiting on one another - here in our Christian community.

2. ...the Lord's Supper is also a celebration of Commemoration...

- ...and it's for this reason that Paul encouraged every Christian — to celebrate the Lord's Supper...
- ...by using the symbols of our Savior's sacrifice - to memorialize the cross of Christ.

3. ...and finally - the Lord's Supper is a celebration of Consecration...

- ...and it's for this reason that Paul encouraged every Christian — to celebrate the Lord's Supper...
- ...by first examining our own lives - so that we might become those Christians - who consecrate our lives unto the Lord.
- And in these ways - we will properly discern the body of Christ - as we Celebrate The Lord's Supper.