

# I Corinthians 11:17-34 – 16 January 2022

## “Order In The Church Pt 2 of 5”

### “The Lord’s Table”

#### Introduction

\*We’re in a very practical book, teaching us about:

- Divisions (*Chapters 1-4*), Disputes (*Chapters 5-6*)
- Christian marriage (*Chap 7*)
- Living in Christian Liberty (*Chap 8-10*)
- Order within the Church (*Chap 11-14*)
- Doctrine of the Resurrection (*Chap 15-16*)

\*Chap 8-10 was about regulating liberty & sin issues

\*Chap 11-14 is about regulating yourself within the organism of the church...God’s family

\*How do you function around & w/ other Christians?

\*This 4-chapter section began, w/ a discussion of correct authority and now continues w/ the proper application of the Lord’s Table or communion

**\*Today 3 things that characterize the Lord’s Supper**

# **1<sup>st</sup> thing characterizing the Lord's Table is Unity: consider others (Vs 17-22)**

Read Vs 17-18

1. First when you come together, you're not united as one, but divided – class division
2. It good that they're assembling (Heb 10:24-25)
3. Paul dealt w/ division spiritually in chap 1-4, now he's dealing w/ it practically
  - a. For every spiritual principle, we need to look for the practical ways to apply it

Read Vs 19

1. Read I John 2:19 – went out from us, b/c they're not of us
2. Sects & denominations will hasten groups in becoming what they're aiming for (good or bad)

Read Vs 20-21

1. They're not doing communion in oneness & love; they're not waiting for each other all at once
2. Very practically, show love by doing it together

## Read Vs 22

1. They're disrespecting the assembling of them all together for the fellowship & communion around the Lord's Table
2. If having a meal takes away from unity, then don't have a meal
  - a. Rich and poor were not together
3. Who do you and I struggle to be in unity with?
  - a. May not even be a type of person, but simply a specific person that bothers you
  - b. Show unity in very practical way and your heart will then follow

**2<sup>nd</sup> thing characterizing the Lord's Table is  
Impunity: consider Christ's redemption (Vs 23-26)**

### Intro

1. This section shows the substance & specifics of the Lord's Table – b/c of it, we are redeemed
2. *Impunity* – Exemption from punishment

## Read Vs 23a

1. So different from 1<sup>st</sup> half of chap 11, this isn't just a custom or ritual, but it's from the Lord
2. When church was established, the Word of God tells us that they continued steadfastly in...  
(Read Acts 2:42)
  - a. I Cor 10:16-17 tells us the breaking of bread specifically meant communion or the Lord's Table

## Read Vs 23b-24

1. It needs remembered that this is FROM HIM and TO ME
2. Jesus' physical body was broken in the effort of paying for my sins...bringing impunity
3. *This is My body*
  - a. So many misunderstandings from this verse
  - b. No reason to think the bread & drink literally become parts of Jesus (transubstantiation)
  - c. No reason to think symbols "by faith" are same as Christ's body & blood (consubstantiation)
  - d. Just also said, 'I'm the vine', 'I'm the Door' & we know what they mean

## Read Vs 25

1. This covenant is prophesied in Jer 31:31-33, Eze 11:16-20
2. A covenant or testament is ratified by the shedding of blood
3. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> cup in the Passover that he pulled out for us to ever use
  - a. It's called The Cup of Redemption
4. We remember Jesus...that He paid for our redemption

## Read Vs 26

1. Some conduct communion weekly, some monthly
  - a. Don't fall for rules, but fall in love with what He's done for us
2. *show* = katangelo – to proclaim all around
3. We're proclaiming we identify w/ Jesus' death
4. We hold on to this in knowledge that He's coming again! What hope and joy!

### **3<sup>rd</sup> thing characterizing the Lord's Table is Purity: consider self-examination (Vs 27-34)**

Read Vs 27

1. Goes back to vs 20 - unworthily b/c you're not focused on one another and on Christ's sacrifice
  - a. Need attention to unity under Christ's work
  - b. Need focus on reverence of Jesus's sacrifice

Read Vs 28

1. Solution? Don't ignore problem & walk away from communion, but to deal with it right away
2. Change attitude of your heart to become worthy

Read Vs 29

1. They didn't discern that the Lord's body is also the Church – (and loving each other)
2. This isn't "the damnation" or "the judgment" as eternal hell. This is corrective judgement
3. Irreverence w/ the Lord & other believers invite God's corrective chastisement upon you

Read Vs 30

1. Misrepresenting the body of Christ, the Church causes a real physical effect

2. Our spiritual condition, attitude & actions can cause physical consequences
  - a. Sometimes as a direct result of violating God's principles (sex outside of marriage)
  - b. Sometimes the physical consequences are just straight from God
  - c. This does not mean to indicate that even physical malady is a result of God's judgement

Read Vs 31-32

1. If we choose to get our hearts right, then there doesn't have to be corrective judgement from God
2. The Lord's rebuke to us is meant to bring us closer to the good path, not to end us

Read Vs 33-34

1. Here's how you come back in line, show unity with everyone at communion
2. Communion is for the oneness of the Church seeing Christ's work of the cross, not for the food
3. Are you interested in the body above self? It's not about a party but purity

## Conclusion

So proper “order in the church” began w/ proper authority & continues w/ properly commemorating Jesus Christ’s work on the cross at the Lord’s Table. How should the communion service be characterized?

### **1. With Unity: considering others**

- a. Coming together shows that we’re all equal at the foot of the cross
- b. We set aside the things that culture says make us different from each other & we sit together in the heavenly places

### **2. With Impunity: considering Christ’s redemption**

- a. We’re now seen as exempt from the punishment that we deserve b/c of the broken body & poured out blood of our Savior
- b. The center need always be Christ’s work

### **3. With Purity: considering self-examination**

- a. Are you living in openness toward God?
- b. Have you confessed your daily need of Him?
- c. True gratitude will prompt purity from us