



Ruined! (Part 2)

1 Corinthians 11:27–34 • Series: Table Manners • Adam Bailie • November 18, 2018

Big Idea

The church that takes communion can be the church that ruins communion.

Outline

Christ Church will ruin communion if...

1. You and I excuse examination (27–28).
2. You and I ditch discernment (29).
3. You and I diminish discipline (30–32).
4. You and I refuse repentance (33–34).

Reflect

- What are some practical things you can do to prepare your heart for communion so that you partake in a worthy manner?
- Do you find it hard to accept the teaching of verse 32, that God disciplines his people? If so, why might it be hard for you to accept? Read Hebrews 12:5–11. How does this passage help you to better understand the Lord's discipline of his children?
- Are any of your relationships with other believers currently damaged? What needs to happen so that reconciliation can take place?

Pray

- Spend time meditating on the gospel. Praise God for the body and blood of Christ offered as a sacrifice for your sin. Ask God to help you always approach communion aware of its significance.
- If necessary, spend time in prayer confessing any sin you may be harboring. Ask God to help you fight your sin and pursue holiness.
- Pray that as we regularly participate in communion at Christ Church, we would do so in a way that pleases God, exalts his Son, and brings much grace into our lives.
- If any of your relationships with other believers are currently damaged, pray that God would strengthen you and help you to take the necessary steps to see that reconciliation happens.

Discuss

- Why do you think Paul is so careful to guard communion from those who would participate in an unworthy manner?
- Alex has been faithfully following the Lord and attending church for over 10 years. He's serious about battling sin and growing nearer to the Lord. Each time communion is served at church, however, Alex is hesitant to participate. As the pastor prepares the church for communion, Alex recalls occasions of sin in the week past. Sometimes it's gossip, other times it's his impatience with his children—many times it's simply the thought of what he *didn't* do for the Lord. For each of these instances of sin, Alex is truly repentant and strives to grow. Still, he feels like he should refrain from participating in communion. How would you counsel Alex?
- Why is disunity within the church so much at odds with participation in communion?
- How do we understand God's discipline of his people in light of the gospel truth that "there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1)?