

## WHY DID JESUS TELL US TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

1 Corinthians 11:17-33 (NIV)

*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."<sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."<sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.<sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

Matthew 26:26-29 (NIV)

The Lord's Supper is a time to:

- ❖ Look OUTWARD to those AROUND us. (1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 33-34)

*In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good.<sup>18</sup> In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.<sup>19</sup> No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval.<sup>20</sup> So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat,<sup>21</sup> for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk.<sup>22</sup> Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!*

1 Corinthians 11:17-22 (NIV)

*So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together.<sup>34</sup> Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions.*

1 Corinthians 11:33-34 (NIV)

- ❖ Look BACKWARD to the SACRIFICE of Jesus. (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,<sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."<sup>25</sup> 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."*

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NIV)

- ❖ Look FORWARD to the RETURN of Jesus. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

- ❖ Look INWARD to EXAMINE ourselves. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

*So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. <sup>29</sup> For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. <sup>30</sup> That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. <sup>31</sup> But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. <sup>32</sup> Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.*

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 (NIV)