

Southside Baptist Church  
Sunday Morning – 5-12-24  
How should we approach the Lord's Table?  
I Corinthians 11:17-34

1. Introduction:
  - a. Taking a look back:
    - 1) This morning, we have the privilege to gather and observe the Lord's Table.
      - a) The question - Are we ready to remember?
    - 2) To answer this question, we will take a look back at the Church at Corinth.
      - a) We will seek to answer some other questions as well.
  - b. Taking a look ahead:
    - 1) It sure seems that some of the Corinthians believers were only thinking of themselves.
    - 2) Text – I Corinthians 11:17-34
2. Paul addresses what has been going on. I Corinthians 11:17-22
  - a. Back story: Verse 17
    - 1) “Now in this...”
    - 2) “I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better but for the worse.”
  - b. “divisions”: Verse 18
    - 1) “I hear that there be divisions among you;” – “divisions” – split or gap in the body.
  - c. “heresies”: Verse 19-20
    - 1) “For there must be also heresies among you” –
      - a) “heresies” – personal choices that result in disunion.
      - b) This exposes the selfishness of the heart, the pride, the indifference, the apathy.
      - c) It reveals – “they which are approved may be made manifest among you.”
      - d) Application – your motive can be seen in how you do what you do when you are here.
    - 2) Verse 20 – “When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's Supper.”
    - 3) Verse 21 – The agape feast was a time for the Body to share together.
    - 4) What is missing here? Maturity.
    - 5) Thank God for His Grace and for His Truth! Now they would know.
      - a) BUT, How would they respond?
    - 6) Verse 22 – “despise ye the church of God and shame them (the poor) that have not.”
3. The Lord's Table: I Corinthians 11:23-34
  - a. An ordinance of the Church today:
    - 1) Jesus took two basic ingredients and transformed their meaning.
    - 2) Because of the significance of this moment, it is important to –
    - 3) Coming to the table is a time to reflect on what Christ has done –
  - b. Notice how Paul introduces this: Verse 23
    - 1) “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you...”
    - 2) “the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread...”
      - a) His eyes were not on His present circumstances but on His disciples.
  - c. The “bread”: Verse 23-24
    - 1) Jesus used the bread as a symbol of His body.
      - a) “take eat; this is my body which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of me.”
      - b) Have we forgotten?
      - c) The bread represents Jesus who is the fulfillment of the promise. Gen. 3:15
  - d. The “cup”: Verse 25
    - 1) “This cup is the New Testament in my blood...” “This do ye, as oft as you drink it in remembrance of me.”

- a) "...it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul". Leviticus 17:11
- b) I Peter 1:18-19 – "...ye were not redeemed with corruptible things..."
- e. Often there is a timing question. Verse 26
  - 1) "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come."
- 4. Preparation of the heart is needed: Verses 27:32
  - a. "unworthily" – in an unworthy manner in relation to this moment.
    - 1) We do not have to be worthy to partake, but we cannot partake in an unworthy manner.
      - a) You cannot partake of this table as a believer with unconfessed sin in your life.
      - 2) "shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" –
  - b. Personal examination: Verse 28
    - 1) "examine" – to test, examine, prove whether a thing is real or not.
      - a) Questions to consider as you examine –
      - 2) Coming to the table with a clean heart –
  - c. The danger is real if you don't judge yourself. Verse 29
    - 1) You are eating and drinking judgement upon yourself.
    - 2) Why? Because you did not rightly "discern the Lord's body"
    - 3) Paul did not hold back in explaining the fruit of their decision to partake unworthily.
      - a) Verse 30 – "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."
  - d. The principle here is simple. Verse 31
    - 1) "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged."
      - a) The truth of the matter is to simply be real.
- 5. Let's prepare our hearts to approach the table together this morning as we remember.