

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 11-16-25
How should we approach the Lord's Table?
I Corinthians 11:17-34

1. Introduction:
 - a. Taking a look back:
 - 1) The Church at Corinth and Communion.
 - 2) How we do – what we do – sometimes reveals why we do it!
 - 3) Why do you come to church?
 - 4) Listen to this mindset/motive. Phil. 2:3
 - b. Taking a look ahead:
 - 1) Wrong motives can lead to insincere worship.
2. Paul addresses what has been going on: I Corinthians 11:17-22
 - a. Back Story: Verse 17
 - 1) “Now in this” –
 - b. “divisions: Verse 18
 - 1) “there be divisions among you” – speaks of a split or a gap in the body.
 - 2) Paul identifies that there were cliques in the church.
 - c. “heresies” Verse 19
 - 1) “For there must be also heresies among you” –
 - a) “heresies” – a personal choice that results in disunity.
 - b) Personal choices can expose the –
 - c) Why do these things happen?
 - d) Application –
 - 2) Verse 20 – What were they thinking about?
 - a) What's missing here?
 - b) Thank God for grace and truth.
 - c) How would they respond?
 - 3) Verse 22 – “despise ye the church of God and shame them that have not.”
3. The Lord's Table: I Corinthians 11:23-34
 - a. Ordinances that the church observes today:
 - 1) The Lord's Supper and Baptism.
 - 2) To the believer the bread and juice symbolize the sacrifice and freedom we have been given.
 - 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) Notice the context provided in verse 23 –
 - 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) I Corinthians 15:1-4
 - 2) “take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of me.”
 - 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) Leviticus 17:11 –
 - b) Hebrews 9:12 –

- c) I Peter 1:18-19 –
 - 2) How will you respond to such love and grace?
- e. Often there is a timing question: Verse 26
- 4. Preparation of heart is needed: Verse 27-32
 - a. “unworthily” is unwise:
 - 1) We do not have to be worthy to partake but we cannot partake in an unworthy manner.
 - 2) “unworthily” – Irreverently, not considering the significance.
 - 3) “shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord” – Verse 27
 - a) “guilty” – to be guilty of a crime committed against the body and blood of the Lord.
 - b. Personal examination: Verse 28
 - 1) “examine” – to test to approve, to discern.
 - 2) Come to the table with a clean heart – no known sin in your life.
 - c. The consequences are real if you don’t judge yourself: Verse 29
 - 1) Eating and drinking unworthily is to bring judgment upon yourself.
 - 2) Why? –
 - 3) 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) If we would examine ourselves.
 - 2) Hebrews 12:10 – Why does God chasten us? He has a purpose!
- 5. Let’s prepare our hearts to come to the Lord’s Table together.