

Communion

February 25, 2018

I. The Division

1 Corinthians 11:17 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good.

Acts 11:2 I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you.

1 Corinthians 11:18 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.

1 Corinthians 1:10-11 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

1 Corinthians 11:19 No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval.

- **The counterfeit is identified by the genuine.**

1 Corinthians 11:20 So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat,

A. The internal attitude determines the value of the external act.

1 Corinthians 11:21 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.

Blatant Animosity

Oblivious Selfishness

Cultural Grudges

Personal Disregard

1 Corinthians 11:22 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!

B. You cannot love the church and disregard people.

II. The Direction

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 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."

- **To fix what is wrong you must know what is right.**

1 Corinthians 11:25 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."

Exodus 24:8 Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

A. Communion is like medicine for your soul.

1 Corinthians 11:26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- **Remember what Jesus did.**
- **Remember what Jesus is going to do.**
- **Jesus' death must put in perspective our earthly divisions.**

III. The Decision

1 Corinthians 11:27 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.

A. Communion calls us to examine our actions and our attitudes towards God and others.

1 Corinthians 11:28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

B. The body of Christ is to be taken seriously.

1 Corinthians 11:29-31 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.

- **Your spiritual health can affect your physical health.**

Proverbs 6:16-19 There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

1 Corinthians 11:32 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.

- **We can sometimes choose how we learn our lessons.**

1 Corinthians 11:33-34 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. 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 11:23-24 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 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."

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