

Lord's Supper

5/15/16

Sunday Morning

**1 Cor.11:17** But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse.

V.18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part, I believe it.

V.19 For there must also be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you.

V.20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,

V.21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

V.22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

V.23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

V.24 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."

V.25 In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

V.26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

V.27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

V.28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

V.29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly.

V.30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

V.31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged.

V.32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.

V.33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

V.34 If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you may not come together for judgment. And the remaining matters I shall arrange when I come.

**1 Cor.11:17** But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, *because you come together not for the better but for the worse.*

1. "because you come together not for the better but for the worse"

a. When the Church was new & things were exciting believers used to get together to eat communal meals

i. Many believers were of poorer class (some even slaves) so food was shared – that all would have enough

b. The idea of feasting w/ other believers didn't start w/ believers

- i. People who had things in common used to get together to eat regularly
- c. Many groups of people ate together
  - i. Men of like trades ate together communal meals
  - ii. Greek warriors ate together in groups of 15 men to a sitting
  - iii. The Merchant's guild is an example of who would meet regularly and eat a communal meal
  - iv. **Plato**<sup>(400 BC)</sup> criticized the practice of the richer members eating better than the poorer members at the same table
- d. The Christians would naturally pick up this custom because some of them had been involved in these type meals before
  - i. There was an excitement about Christianity in the beginning
  - ii. Some even **sold their possessions** to give the money to help the poorer believers
  - iii. God hadn't demanded that – they just wanted to do it
 

**Acts 4:34** For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales,<sup>35</sup> and lay them at the apostles' feet; and they would be distributed to each, as any had need.
- e. These meals were part of a time when even the poorest among them had enough to eat
  - i. We see these meals mentioned in Scripture
 

**Acts 2:46** And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,<sup>47</sup> praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.
  - ii. Even Jews and Gentiles began to eat together
 

**Gal.2:11** But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.<sup>12</sup> For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

V.13 (NP)

V.13 And the rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

V.18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, *I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part, I believe it.*

V.19 For *there must also be factions among you*, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you.

1. "I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part, I believe it" (**V.18**)
  - a. This is a parenthetical statement (something almost off the topic)
    - i. Paul's is almost thinking out loud
  - b. The "new" (of being a Christian) had worn off
    - i. Has the "new" worn off for you?
    - ii. Do you find yourself critical of others?
    - iii. Do you find yourself thinking negative toward others?
    - iv. You can be critical w/out it really showing overtly
    - v. Is your very presence positive or negative?
    - vi. If you are a complainer – stop!

**1 Cor.10:10** Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

\*"grumble" – γογγύζω – murmur, complain, cooing of doves

Not a loud complaining – the **soft** cooing of dove type complaining

- c. Paul says that there are cliques among them
  - i. Cliques are not new – as long as people are involved – it will never be perfect
  - ii. If it was perfect before I got there – my presence ends the perfection
2. "there must also be factions...that the approved become evident" (**V.19**)
  - a. We want fellowship among believers
  - b. But fellowship is not the ultimate goal
  - c. Fellowship doesn't override truth! – no peace at any price!

V.20 Therefore when you meet together, *it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,*

1. "it is not to eat the Lord's Supper"
  - a. Paul says you guys have lost sight in why you are getting together
  - b. You are not doing it to build each other up in Christ
  - c. These feast had also been called love feast – but it wasn't

V.21 (NP)

V.21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

1. "each...takes...own supper...one is hungry...another...drunk"
  - a. They came together as a group of believers
    - i. They were to remember Christ had died for them
    - ii. They had lost the connectedness – they had become independent of each other
  - b. They had no empathy for each other
    - i. Someone could be hungry & it wasn't felt by the well-fed
    - ii. They had become so self-centered that they were actually getting drunk in the presence of others who didn't even have enough to eat
  - c. God has called us to share in each other's joy & pain
 

**Romans 12:15(NIV)** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

**1 Corinthians 12:26** And if one member suffers, **all** the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, **all** the members rejoice with it.
  - d. They had forgotten that they belonged to the same family

V.22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

1. "Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink"
  - a. If you can't eat as a love feast – eat at home!
2. "do you despise the church of God"
  - a. It is possible to do things in the name of Christ that bring reproach

V.23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1. "I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you"
  - a. We need to hear this as if coming straight from God

V.24 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."

1. "took bread...when...given thanks, He broke it..."This is My body, which is for you"
  - a. The bread represents Who Christ is

- i. He was God – but He came in the flesh to make provisions for our salvation
- ii. The bread speaks of who He is
  - 1 Tim.3:16(NIV)** Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.
  - Heb.10:5(NIV)** Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;
  - Philippians 2:6-7 (NIV)**
    - <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
    - <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
    - <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

V.25 In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- 1. "This cup is the new covenant in My blood"
  - a. His blood speaks of what He has done for us
  - b. He bought our salvation w/ His blood
    - Rom.5:8-9 (NIV)** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
    - <sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!
    - Eph.1:7 (NIV)** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace
    - Heb.9:12(NIV)** He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.
- 2. "as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me"
  - a. We are to commemorate / remember what He has done for us
  - b. It should bring unity to us – our small differences should fade in light of His great work

V.26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

- 1. "you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes"
  - a. Every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper we proclaim to the world that we believe in His death, burial & resurrection

b.

V.27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

V.28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

V.29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly.

1. "who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly"
  - a. This doesn't mean that we must be worthy
    - i. No man is worthy of His body or blood
  - b. It means we aren't to take communion lightly
  - c. We don't come together to celebrate the Lord's Supper frivolously, trivially, inappropriately

V.30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

1. "many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep"
  - a. Because they did at Corinth many of them were: **sick, very sick, dead!**

V.31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged.

1. "if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged"
  - a. This is a principle that always applies
  - b. We should judge ourselves & correct our actions we spare ourselves pain
2. "if we judged ourselves **rightly**"
  - a. Our judgment must be according to God's Word – not human philosophy

V.32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.

1. "when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord"
  - a. We are never punished
  - b. We are disciplined b/c He loves us

