

Discerning the Body

Intro:

Matt 1:18-23

We must remember that God is with us more than once a year...

Problem:

1 cor 1:10-12

Their division was a direct repudiation of the presence of God among them; the presence of God in them...it was an ongoing identity crisis.

It is easy to say that division is bad, that it is unChristlike, that folks should be considerate, but something more is going on. Somehow their divisiveness and self centeredness was uniquely significant in regards to the Lord's table...why?

Main Idea:

Communion is about God with us in a distinct community

Communion is about God with us in a visible body

Communion is about God with us in a perfect unity

Implication:

Communion is the picture of distinct membership

Communion is the proclamation of meaningful membership

Communion is the practice of unified membership

Application:

His body mattered - it still does

Communion means coming together physically - when you come together - it matters - the tactile tangible presence matters in reminding us that God is actually, tangibly, with us.

Articles for further study:

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/the-importance-of-communion/>

https://gracechurchsc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/15_thelordssupper.pdf

Discerning the Body

Text:

Communion is about God with us in a distinct community

1 Corinthians 11:17 ¶ But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because **when you come together** it is not for the better but for the worse.

1 Corinthians 11:18 For, in the first place, **when you come together as a church**, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part,

1 Corinthians 11:19 for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.

1 Corinthians 11:20 **When you come together**, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat.

1 Corinthians 11:21 For in eating, **each one** goes ahead with **his own meal**. One goes hungry, another gets drunk.

1 Corinthians 11:22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise **the church of God** and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

Ex 12:1-28, 43-50 (communion about genuine unity/community - not related by affinity - covered by the blood)
(deut 16:1-4 (symbol of leaven about distinctness and unified identity))

1 cor 5:6-13 (**communion is the picture of distinct membership**)

Communion is about God with us in a visible body

1 Corinthians 11:23 ¶ For I received from the Lord what I also **delivered to you (all)**, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,

1 Corinthians 11:24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you (all). **Do this in remembrance of me.**"

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. **Do this, as often as you (all) drink it, in remembrance of me.**"

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as you (all) eat this bread and drink the cup, you (all) **proclaim the Lord's death (finished) until he comes (future).**

1 Corinthians 11:27 ¶ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner** will be **guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.**

1 Corinthians 11:28 **Let a person examine himself**, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:29 For anyone who eats and drinks without **discerning the body** eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have **died**.

1 Corinthians 11:31 But if (2nd class) we **judged** ourselves truly (and we didn't), we would not be judged.

1 Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are **disciplined** so that we may not be **condemned** along with the world.

Lk 22:14-20 (why not the lamb? He Himself is the Lamb but there is more- relates to more than passover)

Jn 6:12-15, 25-35, 48-63 (presence 12 loaves and provision - visible body actual blood)

heb 9:1-5 (12 loaves bread of presence and lamp stand before Holy of Holies - presence)

ex 24:8-11; 25:8-9 (reminder of their presence before Him their fellowship with Him)

(God with us tangibly - visible blood of covenant and bread of presence)

(deut 8:1-6 (Bread a taste of His presence and provision among them))

(jer 31:31-34 (blood cost of a new covenant - reminder of His presence in them))

Jn 1:14 (God with us - bodily tangible presence)

Jn 14:15-17 (God is still with us...but seems so intangible...discern the Body - is it juice and a wafer?)

1 cor 3:16-17; 12:27 (discern the Body - the Bread is a symbol we are not - we are the holiest object the bread and cup remind us of what He did and who He did it for and what He accomplished in doing it)

1 jn 4:7-12 (picture of His presence - unworthy manner - new commandment - treating the body in an unworthy manner - **communion is the proclamation of meaningful membership**)

Communion is about God with us in a perfect unity

1 Corinthians 11:33 ¶ So then, **my brothers, when you (all) come together** to eat, wait for **one another**—

1 Corinthians 11:34 if (since)

anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—**so that when you come together** it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

jn 17:20-23 (**Communion is the practice of unified membership**)

Heb 10:1-25 (His body mattered - it still does)

Communion means coming together physically - when you come together - it matters - the tactile tangible presence matters in reminding us that God is actually, tangibly, with us.)