

Properly Partaking of Communion

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Main idea: The Lord's Supper is designed to honor the Lord; those who partake of it in an unworthy way bring judgment upon themselves.

I. Paul rebukes the Corinthians

¹⁷ But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the **better** but for the worse. 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. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. ²⁰ Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, ²¹ for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 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 Corinthians 11:17-22

II. Paul describes how Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper

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; 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**." ²⁵ In the same way 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**." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

– 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Parallel passages: Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:14-20

III. Paul describes the consequences of partaking of Communion unworthily

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.²⁸ But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. ³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.³¹ But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. ³³ So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come. – 1 Corinthians 11:27-34