

The Lord’s Supper—1 Corinthians 11:17–34

Topics: Discipline, Disobedience, Divisions, Honor, Judgment, Lord’s Supper, Remembering, Respect, Sin, Witnessing

Open It

1. For what kinds of occasions does your church sponsor meals?
2. How does your church observe the Lord’s Supper?

1 Corinthians 11:17–34 (ESV)

¹⁷But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.

¹⁸For, 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,

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

²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord’s supper that you eat.

²¹For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk.

²²What! 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.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,

²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

²⁵In 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 drink it, in remembrance of me.”

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

²⁷Whoever, 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.

²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.

³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.

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

³³So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another—

³⁴if 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.

Explore It

3. Why did Paul have no praise for the Corinthians here? (11:17)
4. Why are there differences among believers? (11:19)
5. What severe problem did Paul address in this passage? (11:20–22)
6. What essential truths about the Lord’s Supper and Jesus’ redemptive work are presented in this passage? (11:23–26)
7. What is accomplished by eating the bread and drinking the wine of the Lord’s Supper? (11:26)
8. What is the result of partaking of the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner? (11:27)

9. What did the illness and death suffered by the Corinthians reveal about God's attitude toward Communion? (11:30)
10. Why does the Lord discipline His children? (11:32)
11. What additional advice did Paul give to Christians preparing for Communion? (11:33–34)

Get It

12. Why is a spirit of reverence important when partaking of the Lord's Supper?
13. When was a time you benefited from the Lord's discipline?

Apply It

14. What advice would you give to a new Christian who wants to participate in Communion?