

UNDERSTANDING

THE LORD'S SUPPER

AS THE LIFESTYLE OF A KINGDOM CITIZEN

Part 3.

Acts 2:42-47; Luke 24:30-34 - **Part 1**

1 Corinthians 11:17-28 - **Part 2**

1 Corinthians 11:28-34 - **Part 3**



1 Corinthians 11:17-22 (NIV)

Correcting an Abuse of the Lord's Supper

- **17** In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good.
- **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.
- **19** No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval.
- **20** So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat,
- **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.
- **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!

1 Corinthians 11:23-28 (NIV)

Correcting an Abuse of the Lord's Supper

- **23** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, *on the night 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, *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.*”
- **26** For *whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*
- **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.*
- **28** Everyone ought to *examine* themselves *before* they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:29-34 (NIV)

Correcting an Abuse of the Lord's Supper

- **29** For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink *judgment* on themselves.
- **30** That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.
- **31** But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such *judgment*.
- **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.
- **33** So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together.
- **34** 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 11:27-33 (Expanded Bible)

Correcting an Abuse of the Lord's Supper

- **27** So a person who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in a way that is not worthy of it [*or an inappropriate manner*] will be guilty of sinning against [*or held responsible for; liable for; guilty of*] the body and the blood of the Lord.
- **28** Look into your own hearts [Let a person examine himself] before you eat the bread and drink the cup,
- **29** because all who eat the bread and drink the cup without recognizing [*discerning; careful regard for*] the **body** eat and drink ***judgment*** against themselves.
- **30** That is why many in your group are sick and weak, and some [a number] of you have died [*fallen asleep; a euphemism for death*].
- **31** But if we ***judged*** ourselves in the right way [*evaluated/examined ourselves*], God would not ***judge*** us [we would not be judged/punished].
- **32** But when the Lord ***judges*** us, ***he disciplines*** us so that we will not be destroyed [*condemned*] along with the world.
- **33** So my brothers and sisters, when you come together [gather as a congregation] to eat, wait for each other.
- **34** Anyone who is too hungry should eat at home so that in meeting together you will not bring God's judgment on yourselves. I will tell you what to do about the other things [additional matters] when I come.

Recap - Lessons from vs 27

NIV

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.

KJV

27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

Worsley New Testament

27 So that whosoever eateth this bread, or drinketh *of* the cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of *profaning* the body and blood of the Lord.

To profane is to treat something sacred with disrespect and irreverence.

Correcting a misconception

- In this case “unworthy manner” or “unworthily” describes the **action** of eating and drinking.
- It is **not** describing the **person** who is eating and drinking.
- Therefore, you do not have to perfect before you partake. Instead, it is because you are imperfect, that is why you partake.
- Not partaking because you feel unworthy or need to confess your sin(s) is a misconception and a trick from the enemy to keep you away from what rightfully belongs to you.
- Everyone who comes to the Lord’s table is, unworthy and is made worthy **only** through HIS **BLOOD!!**

What it means to partake in an “unworthy manner” or “unworthily”

To partake in an unworthy manner or unworthily is to **not** properly examine yourself.

Meaning...

- to not have a proper perspective of your identity in Christ and the reason why it is your right to partake.
- to not properly discern (distinguish with understanding) the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

NIV

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.

Consequences of Partaking Unworthily

NIV

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.

Worsley New Testament

27 So that whosoever eateth this bread, or drinketh *of* the cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of ***profaning*** the body and blood of the Lord.

To profane is to treat something sacred with disrespect and irreverence.

Lessons from vs 28

How to avoid partaking in an “unworthy manner” or “unworthily”

NIV

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

- You are not examining how worthy or not you are by your personal efforts.
- “Examine” is the Greek word “**dokimazo**” which means “to *demonstrate* what is good” (*does not focus on disapproving something*).

In this context, you examine yourself rightly when you say...

- 1) I am confident in the finished work of Christ and I am deserving of this communion because of what Jesus Christ has already done.
- 2) I know the purpose of the Lord’s Supper. (The body is for my wholeness. The cup is for my forgiveness, etc.).

Lessons from vs 29

Consequences of not properly discerning the “body”

NIV

29 For those who eat and drink *without discerning the body of Christ* eat and drink *judgment* on themselves.

Anderson New Testament

29 for he that eats and drinks in an improper manner, eats and drinks *condemnation* to himself, not *discerning the Lord's body*.

- Their inability to properly discern the “body” is a demonstration of disrespect and irreverence.
- Consequently, they invite condemnation upon themselves.

(They were still living conscious of a fallen state instead of living with an understanding of what Jesus did at the cross.)

Lessons from vs 29

Consequences of not properly discerning the “body”

The Body of Jesus (His Flesh)

By not recognizing and living in the *consciousness* of what the body has done for us, we bring condemnation upon ourselves.

We do so by actively or passively agreeing with the devil in matters concerning our fallen state over agreeing with the Lord *consciously* (as concerns the significance of the body of Jesus).

The Body of Christ (Fellow believers)

To condemn “is to express complete disapproval” (in this context – all that Christ has done).

Condemnation is expressed through guilt, shame, regret, fear, unworthiness, etc.

Disapproval was prevalent within that community.

During the communing sessions, they despised each other, despised the sacredness of the ceremony, manifested greed, favoritism, disrespect, etc.

None of these are caused by God.

NIV

29 For those who eat and drink *without discerning the body of Christ* eat and drink *judgment* on themselves.

Lessons from vs 29

Consequences of not properly discerning the “body”

NIV

29 For those who eat and drink *without discerning the body of Christ* eat and drink **judgment** on themselves.

Judgment in Greek (Krima) has many English interpretations. In this verse, the judgment is “**condemnation**”.

Apostle Paul **warns against** and **emphasizes upon** the danger of partaking of the Lord’s Supper without properly discerning the **body**.

(1) It is important to note that it is not God bringing this judgment upon a person, rather the person bringing judgment (condemnation) upon themselves.

(2) The Corinthians had no respect for one another (the body of Christ), evidenced by their actions.

Lessons from vs 30

Consequences of Condemnation (Judgment)

- **30** That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.
- They did not discern the body as they should and as a result, many were
 - Weak
 - Sick
 - Falling asleep (dying prematurely)

Summarily

Condemnation is the root and weakness, sickness, and premature dead are all fruits (of not properly discerning the “body”)

Lessons from vs 30

Consequences of Condemnation (Judgement)



Weak

Sick

Fallen Asleep
(Premature Death)

Condemnation

29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the **body** of Christ eat and drink **judgment** on themselves.

30 That is why many among you are **weak** and **sick**, and a number of you have **fallen asleep**.

Noteworthy!!

- Man ate their way into the knowledge of *good and evil* in the garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:5-6 (NIV)

5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your *eyes will be opened*, and you will be like God, *knowing good and evil.*"

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, *she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

- Man can eat their way out from the knowledge of *good and evil* into *revelation knowledge* through the Lord's Supper.

Luke 24:30-31 (NKJV)

30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them.

31 Then *their eyes were opened and they knew Him*; and He vanished from their sight.

Lessons from vs 31 and 32

NIV

31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under *such judgment*.

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.

AMPC

31 For if we searchingly examined ourselves [detecting our shortcomings and recognizing our own condition], we should not be judged *and* penalty decreed [by the **divine judgment**].

32 But when we [fall short and] are *judged* by the Lord, we are *disciplined and chastened*, so that we may not [finally] be *condemned* [to eternal punishment along] with *the world*.

Lessons from vs 31 and 32

- If we properly discern the body (and blood), we will not live a lifestyle of condemnation (judgment).
- The Lord is merciful enough to judge us (discipline and chasten us) to a place where we no longer live-in condemnation like the rest of the world. Rather, change our ways.

John 3:17 (NIV)

17 For God did not send his Son into the world *to condemn* the world, but *to save* the world through him.

Lessons from vs 33 and 34

- **33** So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat *together*.
- **34** 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.
- Unity with the Lord and oneness with Him in the Spirit must be observed during every activity and celebration in the body of Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 6:17 (NIV)** - But whoever is “united” with the Lord is “one” with him in spirit.

Judgement (condemnation).

1 Corinthians 11:29-34 (NIV)

Correcting an Abuse of the Lord's Supper

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Assignments

- Listen to these videos again. (Part 1, 2 and 3 of this series)
- Everyday this week, partake of the Lord's Supper with understanding
 - in your home.
 - coordinate the communion sessions.
- Properly discern the body and the blood before partaking.
- Always remember to partake of the Lord's Supper prior to studying the Word.
Break the bread, it will help you not only *ginosko* the Lord but *epiginosko* Him.
- As a way of getting ready for next Sunday, study about the **Blood of Jesus**.

Prayer

“Discern” and “Partake” of the Body and Blood of Jesus.

- **Discern the Body of Jesus**

Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

- **Discern the **Blood** of Jesus**

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.

Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)

⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

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