

1 Corinthians Study 17

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

KEY VERSE—

“Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper.” (11:20)

SUMMARY—

Paul addresses the conduct of the brethren when partaking of the Lord’s Supper. The very memorial feast which was to unite them in communion with Christ and one another (10:16-17), was instead dividing them and showing that they were not in communion with Christ (11:17-19). They were showing spite to the church (11:20-22) and to the Lord (11:23-27). They were to examine themselves in order to spare themselves God’s judgment (11:28-29). Chastisement from God was coming to some of them at that time (11:30-31). But God’s immediate judgment was designed to save them from eternal condemnation (11:32). His final appeal is for unity and joint-participation (11:33-34).

QUESTIONS—

- 1) What was one of the main problems with the church in Corinth (11:17-18; 1:10)? How is it showing itself now (11:20-34)?

- 2) Did such divisions accomplish anything at all (11:19)?

- 3) What was their purpose for coming together (11:20)? Were they accomplishing that objective? What is the purpose for coming together in an assembly (cf. Hebrews 10:24-25)?

- 4) What two misuses were the Corinthians making of the Lord’s Supper (11:21)?

- 5) How would you describe what was going on in their assemblies (11:21-22)? How great is the contrast between the attitude of the participants (11:20-22) and the One who instituted the Lord’s Supper (11:23-25)?

6) What feast were they supposed to be eating at the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:29-30)? What feast were they evidently eating along with the Lord's Supper (11:21-22)?

7) Does this passage authorize their "love feasts", condemn them, or merely comment about what is happening (cf. Jude 12)? Where should they be eating these "love feasts" (11:22)?

8) What two things were they doing by eating this feast and leaving out their brethren (11:22)?

9) What are the reasons for taking the Lord's Supper (11:23-26)?

10) If they are proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes when taking the Lord's Supper (11:26), then what are they doing to Him when they partake unworthily (11:27)?

11) Explain how we can eat the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner" (11:27)? What are the repercussions (11:27,29)?

12) Summarize the abuses of the Lord's Supper at Corinth.

⇒ 11:21a,33--

⇒ 11:21b--

⇒ 11:34--

13) In correcting the problems with the Lord's Supper, does Paul urge changes in the actions or the hearts of the participants (11:27-28)?

14) What is the proper way to eat the Lord's Supper (11:28-29,31)?-

15) What had already happened to many of the Corinthian Christians (11:30)? Why?

16) What is the “judgment” Paul is talking about (11:32a)? What is the “condemnation” (11:32b)?

17) What is the purpose of the Lord’s judgment and chastening (11:32)? What does this make clear about the judgments of 11:30?

18) What are they not doing that the Lord is having to do for them (11:28,31-32)?

19) Is physical punishment for moral guilt seen anywhere else in the New Testament age (Hebrews 12:5-11; cf. James 5:13-15; John 5:14)? What similar purpose does church discipline serve (5:3-5)?

20) Recognizing the word “therefore” as pointing to conclusions in his discussion, what three points is Paul making in this discussion on the Lord’s Supper?

⇒ 11:20--

⇒ 11:27--

⇒ 11:33--