

## **I Corinthians 11: 17-34 (New International Version)**

<sup>17</sup>In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. <sup>20</sup>When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, <sup>21</sup>for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. <sup>22</sup>Don't you have homes 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 praise you for this? Certainly not!

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

<sup>27</sup>Therefore, 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. <sup>28</sup>A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. <sup>29</sup>For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup>That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. <sup>31</sup>But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. <sup>32</sup>When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

<sup>33</sup>So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. <sup>34</sup>If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions.

## OASIS: I Corinthians 11: 17-34 –the Lord’s Supper

Possible Starter question: What aspects of the Lord’s Supper are most meaningful to you?  
Any aspects of the Lord’s Supper that confuse or perplex you?

Transitional comment: In our passage today we are visiting the 1<sup>st</sup> Church of Corinth. Let’s listen as Paul challenges them to rediscover a healthy appreciation and practice of the Lord’s Supper.

- Let’s follow along as someone reads our passage aloud.
- If you haven’t already prayed, now would be a good time ☺.

First paragraph (vs. 17-22):

- O What is Paul’s tone in this paragraph?  
*(n.b. While Paul is deeply concerned about the church life in Corinth, he also has found ways to affirm them. See I Cor. 1: 4-9)*
- O What problems or poor practices does Paul identify?
  - I What kind of attitudes would cause or contribute to such problems?  
*(n.b. Paul’s gives a hint as to one of the causes in v. 19. Another contributing factor was that there was a severe famine, and while the “better off” had means to overcome it, the poor were particularly vulnerable and suffering.)*
  - I What insights can we draw about a healthy church or Life Community?

Second paragraph (vs.23-26):

- O What are some important aspects of the Lord’s Supper that Christ passed on to Paul (who passed them on to the Corinthians and us)?
  - I What is “core” to the Lord’s Supper? What do you think God wants us to remember about Christ’s sacrifice and God’s character?
  - I How does the remembrance of the past *proclaim* the Lord’s death? (v. 26)
    - A What is most meaningful for you in participating in the Lord’s Supper?

Third and fourth paragraphs (vs.27-34):

- O In this last section, what are the sobering dangers of abusing the Lord’s Supper?
- O What corrective does Paul prescribe? (v. 28)
  - I What might be the value of examining one’s self?

- A Have you ever taken the time to examine yourself before entering into the Lord's Supper? How has that helped?
- O What does v. 31 reflect about God's involvement in the lives of the Corinthian Christians?
- O What further directions does Paul provide in vs. 33-34?
- I What are the points Paul is making?

Summary/conclusion:

Often the Lord's Supper is referred to as "the Eucharist," which is taken from the Greek word meaning "thanksgiving."

A What do you want to thank God for about the Lord's Supper?

A Conclude by expressing that together in prayer.

---

Text is on other page or [www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com)

- a. BIG idea: our life together in Christ
- b. Key verse: **I Cor. 11: 23-26**
- c. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).

Advice to study leaders:

- d. Complement your OIA questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?)
- e. Determine the core questions to ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time).
- f. Always reword questions in language/word choice that is comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn't make sense to you, then discard it.)
- g. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. How long do you wait? Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- h. Timing: allocate your time and move forward gently but steadily.
- i. Pace the study—move on—conclude with "difference making" application.
- j. Secondary texts—use other texts very sparingly, even though they may be relevant. That tends to push you more into the "teaching" role, rather than the role of facilitator. It can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- k. If you are utilizing this "on-line" study and not part of the OASIS course, I recommend that you get the IVP one volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary, Revised (21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition). It is well worth the \$40.