

Studies in 1 Corinthians

Lesson XXIX: *Honor at the Lord's Table*

TEXT: 1 COR. 11:17-34 (NLT)

17 But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together.

18 First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it. **19** But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized!

20 When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper. **21** For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others. As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk. **22** What? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor? What am I supposed to say? Do you want me to praise you? Well, I certainly will not praise you for this!

23 For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread **24** and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. ^[a] Do this to remember me." **25** In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." **26** For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

27 So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against ^[b] the body and blood of the Lord. **28** That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. **29** For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, ^[c] you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. **30** That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

31 But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. **32** Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are

being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

33 So, my dear brothers and sisters,^[d] when you gather for the Lord's Supper, wait for each other. **34** If you are really hungry, eat at home so you won't bring judgment upon yourselves when you meet together. I'll give you instructions about the other matters after I arrive.

FOOTNOTES

a Greek *which is for you*; other manuscripts read *which is broken for you*.

b Or *is responsible for*. c Greek *the body*; other manuscripts read *the Lord's body*.

d Greek *brothers*.

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper? (vv 24-26)
2. The Christians at Corinth allowed the Lord's Supper to become an empty ritual. What three missteps caused this to happen?
 - vv 17-19: D_____
 - vv 20-22: S___f_____n_____
 - vv 29-32: Lack of s_____e_____
3. How can we make sure that we observe the Lord's Supper in a way that pleases God? (vv 27-29)
4. How can we help one another derive the most spiritual benefit from this time together? (vv. 29)