

A Closer Look at Communion #5:

Paul Talks About Much More than Crackers & Juice (1 Cor 11:17-34, P1)

The persistent problem when observing communion in our churches:

Using 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 but ignoring its _____.

¹⁷ Now in giving these instructions I do not praise *you*, since **you come together** not for the better but for the worse.

¹⁸ For first of all, when **you come together** as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.

²⁰ Therefore when **you come together** in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of *others*; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise *you*.

²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

³³ Therefore, my brethren, when **you come together** to eat, wait for one another.

³⁴ But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest **you come together** for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

Evidence of the greater direct context: "you come _____" (5x!)

Paul Addresses Three Problems in Corinth's Gatherings

Paul's Opening Admonition (17)

¹⁷ Now in giving these instructions I do not praise *you*, since **you come together** not for the better but for the worse.

Problem #1: _____ (18-19)

¹⁸ For first of all, when **you come together** as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.

a. _____ (schisms): as opposed to unity (3 of 8 NT uses)

1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11:18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

12:25 that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.

b. _____ (heresies): opposing group; sect (1/ 9 NT uses)

Problem #2: _____ (20-22a)

²⁰ Therefore when **you come together** in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of *others*; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?

a. By missing the picture & _____ of the Lord's Supper (20)

b. By putting oneself _____ others (21a)

c. By ignoring the _____ of others while overindulging (21b)

d. By coming for the _____ rather than to _____ (22a)

Problem #3: _____ the Assembly of God (22b)

Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing?

a. Selfishness _____ the body!

b. Are you _____ (thinking down) the assembly of God?

c. Are you _____ (putting to shame) those having nothing?

Paul's Closing Assessment (22c)

What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise *you*.

Paul is now ready to explain the Lord's Supper very, very practically!