

19 – THE LORD’S SUPPER (1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34)

I. The Problem at the Table (1 Corinthians 11:17-22)

A. Paul’s Lack of Praise (1 Corinthians 11:17)

- Paul has no praise for them since their gatherings are not for good.

B. Division at the Table (1 Corinthians 11:18-19)

1. The Report (1 Corinthians 11:18)

- Paul has heard that there are cliques when they gather.

2. The Inevitable (1 Corinthians 11:19)

- Paul pointed out that divisions are natural.
- It allows those who act worthy of God’s approval to be made evident.

C. The Abuse at the Table (1 Corinthians 11:20-21)

1. A Table of Selfishness (1 Corinthians 11:20)

- They had turned the memorial of selflessness into an experience of selfishness.

2. The Abuse (1 Corinthians 11:21)

- While one brother went hungry because he was poor, another brother drank to excess.

D. Paul’s Rebuke (1 Corinthians 11:22)

- Paul tells them that they could act selfishly at home.

II. The Tradition of the Table (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

A. The Tradition (1 Corinthians 11:23a)

- Paul delivered the tradition of the Table as he was taught by the Lord.

B. The Bread (1 Corinthians 11:23b-24)

- The bread represented the body of Christ which was broken for us.

C. The Cup (1 Corinthians 11:25)

- The cup represented His blood that was shed for our salvation.

When Church Becomes Messy: First Corinthians

D. The Purpose (1 Corinthians 11:26)

- The table proclaims the death of Christ until he returns.

III. Instructions Concerning the Table (1 Corinthians 11:27-34)

A. The Judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27)

- Partaking of the Lord's Table in an unworthy manner results in God's judgment.

B. The Call for Self-Examination (1 Corinthians 11:28)

- The Table requires that each person examine his life.

C. The Consequences (1 Corinthians 11:29-30)

- Eating in an unworthy manner brings judgment.
- This is evident by the fact that others are sick or even have died.

D. The Nature of Judgment (1 Corinthians 11:31-32)

- Self-examination defers God's judgment.
- God's judgment is to correct our behavior.

E. Instructions Concerning Their Gathering (1 Corinthians 11:33-34)

- They were to be considerate of each other.
- They should satisfy their hunger at home before gathering together.