

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Lesson 17

Paul rebuked the way the Corinthians were celebrating the Lord's Supper. He had praised them for their diligence in keeping the traditions or customs of the church (1 Cor. 11:2), but in dealing with the Lord's Supper, he declared in no uncertain terms: *Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you.* Paul was direct and firm with *these instructions* which shows us the awesome importance of the Lord's Supper and the absolute necessity to celebrate it as it should be celebrated.

DAY ONE: Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 has been divided into four sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 17-22

Verses 23-26

Verses 27-32

Verses 33-34

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each segment division, record a title for chapter 11.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God, Jesus, Paul, and the recipients of the letter.*

New to this lesson: *come together, eat(s,ing), drink(s), bread and cup*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers them – only those that you feel are significant.

3. Using the chart provided with your Observation Worksheets, add any information you feel is pertinent about the **Author(s)**, the **Recipients**, **Problems** and **Commands**.

4. Scan through the verses again and make a list of what they reveal about communion (taking of the bread and the cup).

DAY TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

1. Paul began this chapter praising the Corinthians. He begins this section of chapter 11 telling them that in giving them the next instructions he has *no praise* for them. Why? verse 17
 - a. *But now when I mention this next issue, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together* (v. 17b NLT). Paul mentions two things that were occurring that were harmful. What were they?
Verse 18
Verses 20,21
2. In verse 18, Paul again recognizes the *divisions* among the believers in the church. *Factions* (people separating into groups) are a result of *divisions* (disagreements). These *factions* tend to reveal the true hearts of people. Who does Paul say will be *recognized* or revealed? verse 19
 - a. *Approved* means “acceptable after being tried”. Those who behave in a godly manner during times of divisiveness become apparent. How have you discovered this to be true?
3. The believers in Corinth had lost perspective of what the celebration of the Lord’s Supper was to be about. It had become a time focused on eating, not fellowship. Apparently, the people had divided at these times; eating only with those they were in agreement with. They were taking their food ahead of others, not considering the poor; some were even drunk. Paul asks a series of questions in verse 22. List them below.

Challenge: Explain what Paul meant by these questions.

... *I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

- 1 Timothy 3:15

DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

1. *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you* (1 Corinthians 11:23 NIV). Paul was not passing on his own thoughts, but was recounting to them the importance of communion to Jesus Himself. When was the Lord's Supper first observed? verse 23b

2. Describe what Jesus did with the bread and what it represented. verse 24
 - a. What did Jesus say about Himself in John 6:35?

 - b. Jesus broke the bread to represent His body broken for us. Some translations omit the word *broken* and replace it simply with the words *for you* or *given for you*. Although not one of His bones was broken, His body was broken; His flesh was split through the whippings and beatings He endured. Read Isaiah 50:6 and record how Jesus *gave* His body.

 - c. What do the following verses add to further describe the way Jesus gave and why it was necessary?
Galatians 3:13

1 Peter 2:24

1 Peter 3:18
 - 1.) Who did He do this for? 1 Corinthians 11:24b

3. *In the same manner He took the cup* (verse 25). What did He say about the cup?
 - a. What statement does Matthew 26:28 add to this?

 - b. Thoughtfully write the words of Revelation 1:5.
 - 1.) Describe what it means to be *washed from your sins*.

4. What phrase appears in both 1 Corinthians 11:24 and 25?
 - a. What do you think Jesus wants us to remember?

5. According to verse 26, what are we *proclaiming* when we eat the bread and drink the cup of communion?
 - a. Most people do not desire to be remembered in their death. Though it was the life of Jesus that gave us an example; it was the death of Jesus that brought us life. How can *proclaiming His death* be both a time of sadness and a time of celebration?

6. For how long are we to *eat this bread and drink this cup*? verse 26
 - a. What does that say to you?

 - b. What do these verses say that confirm the **fact** that Jesus *is* coming again:
John 14:1-3

Philippians 3:20,21

Titus 2:13

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
 - 1.) 1 Thessalonians 4:18 exhorts us to *comfort one another with these words*. In what ways do the promises of Jesus Christ comfort you?

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

1. Because the bread represents the Lord's body broken for us and the cup represents the Lord's blood shed for us, Paul draws a conclusion about eating the bread and drinking the cup *in an unworthy manner*. *Unworthy* here means irreverently, in an unbecoming manner. In other words, they were treating the Lord's Supper as a common meal without attributing to it and its elements their proper value. Go back to verses 18 and 21. How might these behaviors display an irreverence to the Lord's Supper?
 - a. What conclusion did Paul declare about those who partake of the Lord's Supper in an *unworthy manner*?
 - 1.) ... *guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord* (NIV). The person who partakes *unworthily* is guilty of sin and deserving of punishment. To prevent this, what were they told to do? verse 28

2. What questions should we be asking of ourselves (to *examine* ourselves) before we take communion?

3. Again, in verse 29, Paul makes a declaration about the one who *eats and drinks in an unworthy manner*. What did he write?
 - a. *Discerning* indicates that they were not separating or making a distinction between the Lord's Supper and any other meal. What would you say is the difference between a regular meal and the Lord's Supper (communion)?

4. 1 Corinthians 11:27 and 29 imply that eating and drinking in an unworthy manner is deserving of punishment. According to verse 30, what punishment was inflicted upon many of the Corinthians? Note: *sleep* refers to death.

5. 1 Corinthians 11:31,32 reminds us of the importance of examining ourselves. What will we escape if we do this?
 - a. Read Psalm 32:3-5 and describe the results of the Psalmist confessing his sins?
 - 1.) Describe, from your own experience, what it is like to examine yourself and confess your sins.

 - b. According to Hebrews 12:5,6 who does God *chasten* and why does He *chasten*?

6. Summarize Paul's warning (verses 27-32) to the church in Corinth.

Unworthiness in the person, is not what ought to exclude any, but unworthily communicating (partaking): However unworthy we be, if we examine ourselves so as to find that we penitently believe in Christ's Gospel, we may worthily communicate (partake). JFB

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 11:33,34

1. Paul begins this section with the term of conclusion, *therefore*. To avoid being chastened, what particular steps does Paul command?
 - a. How do these steps help you to understand, the specific sins that the Corinthians were committing which caused many to partake of communion in an *unworthy manner*.

DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

1. Paul addressed a specific problem that was occurring in the church in Corinth. They were coming to the Lord's Table in an irreverent attitude, celebrating their factions, neglecting the poor, eating and drinking in ways disrespectful to the *body* given and the *blood* shed of our Lord Jesus. Communion today is no longer a time that might be referred to as a "supper" so today's believer is not typically guilty of these same sins. What sinful behaviors and attitudes might be committed today that would be described as partaking in an unworthy manner?
2. To avoid being *judged* or *chastised* for partaking in an unworthy manner, one might decide to avoid partaking. Why would this be a wrong choice?
3. In what ways have you been prompted to re-examine your own behavior/attitude before you take communion?

*And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying,
"This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

-Luke 22:19

Scripture References for Lesson 17

DAY TWO:

1 Tim. 3:15 but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

DAY THREE:

John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Isaiah 50:6 I gave My back to those who struck *Me*, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*"),

1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

Matthew 26:28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Rev. 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

John 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Philip. 3:20,21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

1 Thes. 4:16-18 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

DAY FOUR:

Psalms 32:3-5 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. ⁴For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah ⁵I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

Hebrews 12:5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "*My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

DAY SIX:

Luke 22:19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, "**This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.**"