

The Truth about the Lord's Supper

First Corinthians 11:17-34

-The Lord's Supper is source of problems in many churches today. It is generally taken much too lightly. For most it is simply a ceremonial, religious or ritualistic event where the focus is self and not Christ. What is the correct theological position, and what are the rules?

I. PREVAILING PROBLEMS (vv. 17-22).

-How often?

A. Divisions (v. 18). "*Schismata*," hence our word schisms.

B. Denials (v. 19).

C. Disruptions (vv. 20-22).

II. PROPER PRACTICES (vv. 23-34).

1. Remembering the Sacrifice (vv. 23-27). What are the fundamentals of the Lord's Supper? There are six purposes listed:

- (1) Thanksgiving (v. 24)
- (2) Unity/fellowship (v. 24)
- (3) Memorial (vv. 24, 25)
- (4) Proclamation (v. 26)
- (5) Prophecy (v. 26)

2. Reexamining the Saints (vv. 27-28).

(6) Diagnostic (vv. 27-28)

Three levels of judgment

(1) Self, v. 31 *-For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.* (See also: Ps. 32:3-5; Lam. 3:40; Matt. 5:23-24; Luke 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 2:15; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 6:4; 1 John 1:9; Rev. 2:5)

(2) Church (authorities), 1 Cor. 5:1-13; esp. vv. 11-13; 1 Cor. 6:1-6; (Cf: Rom. 16:17-20; Gal. 6:1-2; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; 1 Tim. 1:20; Jas. 5:19-20; 1 John 5:16; Jude 22-23)

(3) God, 32 *But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.* (Eccl. 12:14; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Rom. 2:16; 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 12:5-11; Jude 14-15; Rev. 20:11f)

3. Renouncing Selfishness (vv. 33-34). -A clear conscience is critical. (See *Questions of Examination*)