

I. Introduction: Paul called on the Corinthians to stop sinning against each other at their church dinners, and to treat the Lord's Supper with respect and reverence.

- A. Jesus teaches us to keep Him at the center of our hearts, and to remind ourselves repeatedly of His death and resurrection by partaking of the Lord's Supper.

II. Celebrating The Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:17-34).

A. Their Competition (vv. 17-19).

- 1. Paul denounced the Corinthians' love feasts because they had become a place of division; he said that it would be better for them not to meet if it caused disunity.

B. Their Corruption (vv. 20-22).

- 1. Paul rebuked the Corinthians for the abuse of these meals, calling out those who were selfishly excluding hungry poor people and others who were getting drunk.

C. Their Commemoration (vv. 23-26).

- 1. Paul reminded the Corinthians of what the Lord's Supper signified. It was a reminder of the new covenant that Jesus established through His death on the cross.

D. Their Condemnation (vv. 27-34).

- E. Paul indicated that some of the Corinthians did not take communion in a worthy manner, and because of this, God brought judgment against them.

III. Conclusion: Jesus is our Passover lamb who was slain for us; that we might enter into a new covenant with God and be delivered from Satan, sin, death, and hell.

Questions About: Celebrating the Lord's Supper

1. What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper? What celebration did communion replace? Why did the Jews celebrate Passover? What are the connections between these two celebrations?
2. Why did Paul say there was a problem with their love feasts? (**1 Cor 11:17-19**) How had he addressed these divisions earlier? (**1 Cor 1:10-14**) How had this affected communion?
3. How had the Corinthians corrupted the Lord's Supper? (**1 Cor 11:20-22**) How were they selfish at their love feasts? (**v. 21**) How had they brought shame on the church of God? (**v. 22**)
4. How did Paul correct their understanding of communion? (**1 Cor 11:23-26**) Where did Paul receive his understanding of it? What did the Passover feast commemorate? (**Ex 11-12**)
5. How is Jesus our Passover lamb? (**John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:7**) In the Lord's Supper, what does the bread represent? (**v. 24**) What does the wine represent in communion? (**v. 25**)
6. What did Jesus mean by the "new covenant in my blood"? (**Jer 31:31-34**) What was the old covenant God had made with Israel? (**Ex 19-24**) How is Jesus' covenant better? (**Heb 7:22**)
7. Why did Paul condemn their communion practices? (**1 Cor 11:27-34**) What did Paul tell them to do about it? (**v. 28**) How had some of them brought judgment upon themselves? (**vv. 29-30**)
8. Do you need to examine yourself? Do you have any unconfessed sin? Are you living with guilt in your life? Do you need God's forgiveness? Are you spiritual dried up? Weak? Sick? Dead?

Prayer

1. Ask God to search your heart to see if there are any sins that might hinder your worship.
2. Ask God to cleanse you from your sins and create a new spirit of obedience within you.