

## The Lord's Table: More Than Crackers and Juice

(1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

*Summary: Paul Addresses Three Problems and Uses Communion as the Truth to Bring the Three Needed Solutions*

The Common Thread – “come together” – the nature of the church

### I. The Three-Fold Problem at Corinth

#### A. Separations (17-19)

Schisms – divisions by wrong attitudes or choices

Heresies – deviations from orthodox teaching

#### B. Selfishness (20-21)

#### C. Shaming of the Assembly of God (22)

### II. The Example and Commands of the Lord Jesus

#### A. The Timing of His Commands (23; John 13)

“in the night in which He was betrayed”

He had just washed the feet of those that would:

- forsake Him,
- deny Him, and
- betray Him!

#### B. The Meaning of the Bread (24)

“this is my body ... for you” – sacrificial payment

#### C. The Meaning of the Cup (25)

“This cup is the new covenant in My blood.” – sa procurement

#### D. The Extent of the Commands (26)

Mandatory (“this do [command] in remembrance of Me”)

Continuous (“as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup”)

Declarative (“you proclaim the Lord’s death”)

Expectant (“till He comes”)

Northridge Baptist Church – January 27, 2008

### III. Paul’s Condemnation and Solutions to the Problem

#### A. Condemnation (27)

#### B. Command #1 – Examination (28)

(Solution to Problem #1 – Separations)

Examine what? General evaluation and confession of sin?

*Am I relating properly to the Body? Do I have a correct view of the Body as one?*

Does a believer choose to participate? Not, let him examine then decide whether to participate or not. There’s no option of non-participation.

#### C. Explanation (29, cp 34))

His “for you” body! (24)

1 Cor 10:17 – For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

1 Cor 12:12-14 – <sup>12</sup> For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free -- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For in fact the body is not one member but many. (12:12-27 – How many times is “body” used?)

#### D. Chastisement (30-32)

Jesus takes division in His body seriously.

Jesus takes the treatment of His body personally.

“Saul, Saul. Why are you persecuting Me?”

1 Cor 3:16-17; 8:12

#### E. Commands #2 & #3 (33-34)

(Solutions to Problems #2 & #3)

##### 1. Solution for Shaming – Wait for one another (33)

10:23-24; 10:31-33

##### 2. Solution for Selfishness – Eat at home (34)

Review

- ***Are you divisive, or are you committed to the one bread, one body?***
- ***Are you considering others in the body, putting them before yourself?***
- ***Are you assembling with the purpose of meeting the needs of others, rather than your own needs?***

Communion Commitments

The Bread

- ***I reaffirm my belief in the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who bore my sins on the cross and rose again.***
- ***I recognize my responsibility to consider and care for the body of Christ, the church, of which I am a part.***
- ***I recommit myself to sacrificially serve the body of Christ, the church.***

The Cup

- ***I renew my pursuit of growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and in the blessings that are now mine through the new covenant procured by His blood.***