

Formed by Receiving and Eating | 1 Corinthians 11:17-31

But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Theological Clarity and Charity

1. Roman Catholic Tradition and Transubstantiation

- a. Transubstantiation teaches that the outward appearance of the bread and wine remain unchanged, but in their inner essence changes or transforms:
 - i. "By the consecration the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is brought about. Under the consecrated species of bread and wine Christ himself, living and glorious, is present in a true, real, and substantial manner: his Body and his Blood, with his soul and his divinity." (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

2. Protestant Tradition and The Presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit

- a. "For the way in which He [Jesus] imparts Himself to us is by the secret power of the Holy Spirit, a power which is able not only to bring together, but also to join together, things which are separated by distance, and by a great distance at that." (John Calvin)

How To Improperly Observe the Lord's Supper

1. Division
2. Selfishly
3. Unrepentant

What the Lord's Supper Actually Is

1. A Means of Grace
 - a. A tradition passed down from Jesus, through the Apostles, and the church;
 - b. A meal that must be guarded and protected;
 - c. The significance of Christ's body and blood
2. A Grace We Participate In
 - a. Every redeemed sinner is welcome;
 - b. Unity in the church
3. A Grace that is a Witness
 - a. The Lord's Supper helps to shape how we view and serve others;

How to Properly Observe the Lord's Supper

1. Examine Yourself
2. Repentant

Benediction | Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen