

“Propriety and the Lord's Supper”

1 Corinthians 11: 17-34

Jerry Grey

4-10; 11-23

Introduction:

When is it better to not even have church?

The Prophet Malachi speaks of God's wrath against His people for improper worship.

Malachi 1:10-14

¹⁰ “Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD Almighty, “and I will accept no offering from your hands. ¹¹ My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord Almighty.

¹² “But you profane it by saying, of the Lord’s table, It is defiled,’ and of it's food, 'It is contemptible.’ ¹³ And you say, ‘What a burden!’ and you sniff at it contemptuously,” says the LORD Almighty.

“When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?” says the LORD. ¹⁴ “Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king,” says the LORD Almighty, “and my name is to be feared among the nations.

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If worship is worth doing at all, it's worth doing properly. Especially in our two ordinances. What we do in worship is to be

proper and fitting. It is to be passionate, holy, and requires great effort.

Context:

Again – pagan rituals, selfishness, and worldliness had worked its way into their services. Especially into the Lord's Supper.

John MacArthur:

The early church developed special fellowship meals that came to be called love feasts (Jude 12) and that usually were closed with the observation of Communion.

Jude 12

12 These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm – shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted – twice dead.

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These were congressional meals, stressing fellowship, affection, and mutual caring among the believers. The emphasis on oneness led very readily into a celebration of the unifying accomplishment of the Savior on the cross. The church at Corinth followed this custom but, like those whom Peter condemns, (2 Peter 2:13ff), they had turned the meals into gluttonous, drunken revelry. And when the meal was connected to the bread and cup of remembrance, it was a flagrant desecration of the holy ordinance.

2 Peter 2:13-16

13 They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. 14 With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed – an accursed brood! 15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to

follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. 16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey — a beast without speech — who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

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Three areas to look at that Paul addressed.

Discord, Doctrine, Destruction.

C.A. Coates: 1862-1945. Hymn writer, commentator, bible outlines, poet, writer.

I. Discord: (17-22)

Four Desires of Christ in John 17- From the priestly prayer to close out the first Lord's supper. Christ's prayer for us. We would do well to ponder these things during our Lord's supper. The Corinthians were far from this.

1. Kept in His name.
2. Keep from evil.
3. Sanctified by truth.
4. Unity as God & Son has.

Verse 17: Chapters 1-4 dealt with the divisions.

Paul declares, or in His instructions, says he has no praise for the church as he did in 11:2. Paul says, **“Your meetings or when you come together, it does more harm than good.”**

Having church is not the right thing to do – having right church- is the right thing to do.

Church has several essential aspects: (William Temple)

1. It must engage all the members. Worship is directed towards one God not one group. Oneness, body, unity is the key.

2. The word must be presented, explained, argued, illustrated, and applied.
3. Music – praise of God and softening of the heart is key. Music and singing is the expression of the soul. If the mouth doesn't sing, the heart hasn't a song.
4. The conscience must be influenced by the Holiness of God.
5. The mind must be freed and changed by the truth of God. Our imaginations need to see the beauty of God.
6. The love of God and wrath of God balanced in presentation.
7. Devotion to the purpose of God. Commitment and change. Forgiveness and encouragement.

Have you ever seen churches that fought so much that the church services became a battle ground. Satan is the only winner in these cases. Don't ever get yourself involved in these battles. No one wins and destruction befalls the church. If you disagree with something that badly, go somewhere else or just stay home. You may be shocked at that statement, but it's true. Some people are better off not coming.

One family had such a difficult time worshipping with others (due to legalism) that they started posting things on social media about home church... "catch the wave," they said. Truth is, it was better for them to stay away. They were destructive to the kingdom.

Verse 18:

The church had "**schisma.**"

Divisions

Division is a unity killer.

In listing spiritual gifts in Ephesians 4, Paul says that the gifts are for building up the body "*until we all reach **unity** in faith and in*

the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

"Unity and division cannot live in the same room."

Verse 19: δεῖ - “it is necessary.”

Paul knew in the real world, conflict exists. There is no place it does not pop up, even in church.

* Church will always have tares and immature believers.

“It is inevitable that stumbling blocks will come, but woe through whom they come.”

You don't want to be the source of conflict.

Factions also can reveal problem people. God uses problems to show who has His approval. Notice how the KJV translates this.

1 Cor 11:19

19 For there must be also **heresies** among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

KJV

Greek: hairesis- differences (NIV) Factions (HCSB) Heresies (KJV)

Note that God calls conflict people heretics.

John MacArthur:

“Trouble in church creates a situation in which true spiritual strength, wisdom, and leadership can be manifested.” The real leaders are recognized when conflict arises. Be careful how you identify yourself.

1 Thessalonians 2:4

4 On the contrary, we speak as those **approved** by God to be entrusted with the gospel. ***We are not trying to please men*** but God, who tests our hearts.

NIV

** People who are divisive cannot be trusted with the gospel. JRG*

Verse 20-21:

The word “***deipnon***” supper or chief meal. This was the love feast followed by communion.

* Today we associate the Lord's Supper with the communion service only.

In Corinth, the problems eventually led to separation of the two events.

The poor came to eat what the wealthy brought. The purpose of harmony and unity were destroyed. Some ate before others arrived. Some even got drunk.

Verse 22:

People could have eaten at home. They could drink at home. They chose to humiliate the poor and exclude people.

There was no praise for their selfishness. The service became a free-for-all instead of unity and fellowship. The upper class **despised** and **shamed** the poor. Wow! How can unity reign with that going on?

II. The Doctrine: v. 23-26

Verse 23 – Some believe 1 Corinthians was written before the gospels. So what Paul writes is direct inspiration from Jesus. It does have direct quotes from God.

This is what God intends for a fitting, proper, and doctrinal Lord's Supper.

The Night He was Betrayed.

Refers to the change from Old Testament remembrance of physical deliverance from Egypt to Spiritual deliverance in Jesus Christ. The real passover was fulfilled in Christ. He is now the fulfillment of all OT prophecy. The blood on the door posts is now the blood on the mercy seat in heaven. Jesus is the last sacrifice.

He Took Bread.

The symbol of substance and life. Why did he not take a piece of fruit or a piece of meat? (Ask Cain) Bread is the universal symbol of life. "Sustenance." The bread of life was **broken, sufficient, given, and thankful**. He was betrayed (**paradidomi**), but he gave. The contrast between what Judas did and what Christ did is amazing.

He Gave Thanks: **εὐχαρίστησα**- Our word eucharist comes from this word. To express gratitude, thanks or say grace.

Verse 24:

He gave thanks – the bread represented his broken body and life. He literally was thankful for being able to give his life for ours. His struggle in the garden was not that he did not want to die for us but that it could not come faster. The cup was to pass forth from Jesus, not pass from Jesus.

This Is My Body:

The Bread represents His body. It is not His body, only symbolic of His body. It does not turn into His body, or His spirit indwell the bread. **He indwells you! No transubstantiation (changes to) or consubstantiation (present in).**

For you:

Each man had to take the bread. He offers; you take!

In Remembrance: Remember What?

The Day of Atonement!

2 goats - Scapegoat and Blood Goat.

Remember He was blamed, punished, and broken for You! He got what you were supposed to get, and He was thankful to do it.

He took the Cup:

Whereas the bread represent His life and work – the cup of His blood represented His death.

* Life is in the Blood. The New Testament or covenant is sealed, in Christ's Blood.

* A life must be given when a covenant has been broken (Rogers) p. 376. The new Covenant is Jesus' life given because Jew, and Gentile alike, failed in keeping the old covenant.

The cup of blessing was the final act and the benediction of a feast. The honored guest held up their cups and blessed the guests.

When Jesus said, "Take this cup from me" in Gethsemane, He was not sidestepping God's will, He was begging to step into it. The cup was His final blessing. 2 Timothy 4:6... Paul's life was a finalized as a drink offering.

Verse 26:

You proclaim the Lord's death when you do this. As oft as you do it. This is not a command to do it every service. When you do this, do it this way and remember.

The Lord's Supper is a sermon, a lesson, a picture, and an invitation. This is the great proclamation.

- Come to the table.
- Accept the invitation.
- Partake, take the eucharist.
- Preach this sermon for me.

Until He Comes:

The Doctrine of the rapture and Christ's return have been under attack for years. It is no less under attack today. Post-tribulation views and Amillennialist's views have slipped into even the best and brightest scholar's works today.

I'm not buying it. If He were not coming unexpectedly – If we knew what day and hour – we would not live in holiness, we would not strive to reach the lost or grow the church.

Look at me! Jesus is Coming to get His Bride.

Get ready! Stay ready!

The cup is the blood of Christ and that establishes the new covenant. This **is** the NT covenant. **Esti** from **eimi**. PAI.

III. The Destruction: v. 27-34

Verse 27: Why we take this seriously at WBC.

To take this ordinance in an unworthy manner is deadly.

Greek: Unworthy: anaxios- Not in accordance with proper value. (Propriety). Not placing proper significance on the most important of Christian ordinances. It is irreverent.

In the Doctrine section we saw.

1. “Body” importance”
2. Confession
3. Remembrance
4. Give thanks

The supper is not for youth outings, small groups, or weddings. This is a total fellowship church ordinance. This is communion with God and each other.

Now we see:

1. Value, worth
2. Who may participate?
3. Examination – Are you saved? Are you clean?

Examine (PA IMP) to approve after looking it over – Repeated action.

Examine to not be guilty of sinning against His body and blood.

Why?

Verse 29-30:

If one eats and drinks without *discerning* or *recognizing* the body and blood brings damnation – or judgment on Himself.

One who is without discernment is one who staggers and sways. To be partial. I like that translation.

One who will not receive Christ is partial to His own beliefs, morals and **has created His own covenant.**

Verse 30:

Some were sick, some died as a result of not taking this ordinance seriously.

Verse 31:

Take the time to properly examine yourself before you partake.

Verse 32:

God disciplines those who are His and for our good. It proves we are His! I do not want to be judged with the world. Would you like the great white throne judgment or the marriage supper of the Lamb?

I would like to miss out on the world's destruction. You?

Rev 20:11-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

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Verse 33, 34:

So, wait on each other. Body, Body, Body,... Life is important to God.

Our services should always result in a positive outcome. Lord, help the church that would be better off not meeting at all.

Closing:

305 Cyclop of Bib Ill.

Roman soldiers were required, as far as possible, to return once a year to Rome to renew their oath of allegiance to the Emperor. The soldiers of every nation must salute the colors from time to time or be judged guilty of treason, or disloyalty.

Attendance at the Lord's Table is the Christians salute to the blood-stained banner of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

*** Will you come today and pledge?**

WBC's Lord's Supper Service: 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

Preparation:

1. Announce that all ordained man may come down.
2. Explain examination process.

1 Corinthians 11:27-30

“Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.”

3. Deacons join pastor at altar... corporate prayer.
4. Deacons uncover the table.

Who May Participate?

1. Believers: Mark 14:22-26... Given to the disciples not the crowds.

Mark 14:22

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples...”

2. Those of like faith and order. You believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and been immersed by baptism.
3. Those who have at this moment confessed their sins as the Holy Spirit has revealed them. You are prepared for the supper.

Six Things To Do During The Lord’s Supper: 1 Corinthians 11:23-30:

1. **Give Thanks:** “On the night He was betrayed, He took bread and when He had *given thanks*, He broke it and said, this is my body which is broken for you.”
2. **Fellowship:** Jesus speaks of His *“body.”* We do this together. This is a church function. Reconciliation with God and man.
3. **Remember:** *“Do this in Remembrance of me.”*
Remember the Day of Atonement and the Crucifixion. The 2 goats
4. **Confession of Sins:**
5. **Look forward** to its fulfillment in the Kingdom.
6. **Explain** to your children what we are doing: Make it a testimony.

The Bread: “Take, this is my body which is broken for you”

1. By partaking of this bread you will be symbolically saying to all that see you that you believe that Jesus Christ’s body was broken for you and that you accept that sacrifice as sufficient for your eternal life. You not only believe this but have appropriated it personally. Read Isaiah 53
2. You accept Jesus’ fulfillment of the Law. He kept it for you. He was totally perfect in His body. *Matthew 5:17 tells us that Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it.*
3. You are saying that you accept the fact that Jesus legally and forensically fulfilled all God’s demands of righteousness. Hebrews 10:12 says, *“But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.”*
4. You accept the fact that Christ suffered in His body and was literally crushed by God for your sins. He took your punishment as an innocent man. The punishment that brought us peace was placed on Him. This is substitutionary atonement.
5. He is the bread of life, light of the world, the door to heaven, the good shepherd, the resurrection, the way, the truth and the life, and the true vine.
6. Deacon prays over Bread.
7. Chairman Passes out bread to deacons.
8. Deacons distribute Bread.
9. Chairman Takes up Bread.
10. Pastor serves deacons.
11. Chairman serves pastor.

“The night the Lord was betrayed, He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said... this is my body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

The Cup: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood”

Hebrews 10:19-25

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- 1.** Represents cleansing and separation.
- 2.** The life is in the blood. He gave His life for ours. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.
- 3.** Atonement is represented. At-One-Ment
- 4.** Blood is the ultimate sacrifice.
- 5.** This cup represents the fact that you will never again be seen in God’s eyes as defiled or unclean. There is no sin between you and Christ.
- 6.** The blood represents closeness to God. You may come near Him now.

- 7.** Deacon prays over cup.
- 8.** Chairman Passes out cup to deacons.
- 9.** Deacons pass out cup to congregation.
- 10.** Chairman takes up cup
- 11.** Pastor serves deacons.
- 12.** Chairman serves the pastor.

“In the same way, after supper, He took the cup saying, this is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

“For whenever you eat and drink the bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”

“Until He Comes” Luke 22:7-38

Introduction: Let’s take this message a step further. What are we to do with this message?

Notice Verse 16. It tells us that the Lord’s Supper will find its fulfillment in heaven. The Marriage supper of the Lamb is what it’s called. What are we to do until then?

Exegete verses 7-38

- What were they thinking while they prepared the meal?
- Did they ponder what the fulfillment would be?
- They fought over who would be the greatest in the Kingdom right after the Lord served them. They appeared to be so immature.
- Jesus explains service to them.
- Verse 31 Jesus gives Peter a clue about what is on the horizon for him if he only would listen.
- Jesus tells them all that their lives would soon be changed and to get prepared for the worst.

Closing:

- We are to proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.
- You are to accept that death if you have never received Him as Savior.

- You are to be prepared for the Messiah when He comes.
- Cover the table:
- Invitation: