

1 Corinthians Part Two

Lesson #10, Chapter 11:17-34

Please read all of Chapter 11 before beginning your lesson. Ask the Lord to help you develop an attitude of dependence upon Him as you study.

1. The ESV begins verse 17 with these words: *But in the following instructions I do not commend you*. What does that tell you about what's coming in the rest of the chapter?

2. Why doesn't Paul commend the Corinthians according to verse 17? Compare his statement in verse 17 with verse 2. What is different about the two situations?

3. Based on verse 17, what is the goal of our fellowship as believers?
 - a. What are some ways we can foster that goal? See Rom. 1:11-12; Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 2:1-2; Col. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:11, 14.

 - b. What areas would you like to work on so you can build up the believers you come in contact with?

 - c. When you get together with believers, whether at church or anywhere else, what are some ways you endeavor to leave them “better” off after having spent time with you?

 - d. What are some ways we can actually leave someone “worse” off after spending time with us? See 1 Cor. 1:10-11; 3:3; 2 Cor. 12:20; Gal. 5:26; Titus 3:9.

- e. Of the “danger zones” mentioned in the verses above, what one(s) are you most tempted toward and how can you overcome them, so you won't leave people worse off after having spent time with you?

4. How did the Corinthians leave each other worse off after their times of fellowship according to verse 18?

5. The NIV translates verse 19 well and provides a good sense of Paul's meaning. It reads, *No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval*. What does Paul mean by his surprising concession in verse 19?
 - a. Why does he believe those situations will occur? See also 2 Cor. 2:9; 13:5; 2 Tim. 3:9; Titus 1:10-11; 1 Jn. 2:19.

6. How are those spiritual differences among the people revealed according to verses 20-21?

7. Based on your observations of verses 20-22, explain how the Lord's Supper should have been celebrated.

8. What is the Lord's Supper? See verses 23-26.

9. Why did Paul react so strongly to the way in which the Corinthians partook of the Lord's Supper? See verses 26-27.

10. What does the bread in the Lord's Supper symbolize? See verse 24; Is. 53:4-6; Phil. 2:6-8; 1 Pet. 2:24.

Eager Beaver: Do a little research to discover what the “bread” from the Lord’s Supper was like and why that kind of bread was used.

11. What does the wine in the Lord's Supper symbolize? See verse 25; Heb. 9:13-14, 22-28; 1 Pet. 1:17-19.

12. How does partaking in the Lord's memorial supper help us proclaim His death (verse 26)?

13. What kind of impact did the Lord Jesus desire His memorial supper to have upon your heart and life each time you celebrate it, as well as in-between times?

14. In verse 27 we learn it's possible to participate in the Lord's Supper in an *unworthy manner*. How is that possible? See verse 29 for the answer that fits our passage. Now see Eph. 4:20-32; 5:1-14 for a mere handful of other situations that would render us unworthy to participate in the Lord's Supper.

15. Verse 27 tells us that if we do partake of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner, we are *guilty of the body and blood of the Lord*. What does Paul mean by that statement? See Heb. 10:29.

16. After what we've learned, it's scary to think of participating in the Lord's memorial supper in an unworthy manner. But the Lord provided a solution in verse 28 with the admonition for you to *examine* yourself. Just what does it mean to *examine yourself*? See verse 31; and also Ps. 66:18; Lam. 3:40; Matt. 5:23-24; 2 Cor. 13:5; 2 Pet. 1:4-11.

17. What happens after we examine ourselves according to verses 28-29?

18. Partaking in the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner results in what? See verse 30.

19. Does this mean that every time someone is weak, sick, or has died, it is because they ate the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner? Before giving your explanation look up the following verses: Job 2:3-6; Jn. 9:2-3; 11:4; Acts 6:8; 7:59; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; Heb. 12:11.

20. According to verse 31, what does a faithful examination of our hearts and lives result in according to verses 28 and 31? What does an unfaithful examination of our hearts and lives result in according to verses 29-30 and 32?

21. How is the Lord's mercy for His children seen in verse 32? Explain verse 32 using what we've learned in verses 27-32.

22. The Lord is always righteous in His judgments of us, yet we need help with our own judgments. What is the key to judging ourselves rightly? See Ps. 19:7-14; 119:11, 98-101; 1 Jn.3:19-22.

23. Why are we to wait for one another when we partake of the Lord's Supper? See verses 33-34. Now briefly summarize the other reasons given in our passage to wait for each other when celebrating the Lord's Supper.
24. All of these instructions and warnings were given because Jesus wanted us to remember Him. Write out a prayer of remembrance for Christ's sacrifice on your behalf.

“It seems then, that Christians may forget Christ! There could be no need for this loving exhortation, if there were not a fearful supposition that our memories might prove treacherous. Nor is this a bare supposition: it is, alas! too well confirmed in our experience, not as a possibility, but as a lamentable fact. It appears almost impossible that those who have been redeemed by the blood of the dying Lamb, and loved with an everlasting love by the eternal Son of God, should forget that gracious Saviour; but, if startling to the ear, it is, alas! too apparent to the eye to allow us to deny the crime. Forget Him who never forgot us! Forget Him who poured His blood forth for our sins! Forget Him who loved us even to the death! Can it be possible? Yes, it is not only possible, but conscience confesses that it is too sadly a fault with all of us, that we suffer Him to be as a wayfaring man tarrying but for a night. He whom we should make the abiding tenant of our memories is but a visitor therein. The cross where one would think that memory would linger, and unmindfulness would be an unknown intruder, is desecrated by the feet of forgetfulness. Does not your conscience say that this is true? Do you not find yourselves forgetful of Jesus? Some creature steals away your heart, and you are unmindful of Him upon whom your affection ought to be set. Some earthly business engrosses your attention when you should fix your eye steadily upon the cross. It is the incessant turmoil of the world, the constant attraction of earthly things which takes away the soul from Christ. While memory too well preserves a poisonous weed, it suffereth the rose of Sharon to wither. Let us charge ourselves to bind a heavenly forget-me-not about our hearts for Jesus our Beloved, and, whatever else we let slip, let us hold fast to Him.” ~Charles Spurgeon¹

¹ Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings, Complete and Unabridged*; New modern edition (Peabody, MA: Hendrikson Publishers, 2006).