

Lord's Supper

July 19, 2026

Main Passage: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Theological Theme

When we come to the table, we humbly remember Christ's atoning sacrifice for us, celebrate the gospel as a source of our unity as a church, and examine ourselves (vv. 27-29).

Introduction

- ❓ How have you observed the Lord's Supper throughout your time in the church?
- ❓ How do we keep this time as worship and not merely a routine?

1. For The Worse (1 Corinthians 11:17-22)

Within the population of ancient Corinth, there was a vast divide. In this big city of trade, slaves (approximately 400,000) outnumbered the free population (around 250,000), and a stark disparity of wealth existed. Alciphron, a Greek writer from the second century characterized the city by the "nauseating behavior of the rich and the misery of the poor." Unfortunately, the church was not exempt from these unjust ways of operating.

- ❓ What complaint did Paul bring against the church in Corinth and why was this a problem?
- ❓ How was their gathering "for the worse" (v.17)?
- ❓ What are some ways we might act selfishly and not consider others in the church today?

2. Do This in Remembrance of Me (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Paul's note on receiving from the Lord here may mean that Paul received a special revelation from the Lord on this command, or simply that he was taught about the Lord's Supper as the rest of the church was, by hearing from others what Jesus Himself said at the Last Supper.

- ❓ What did Paul emphasize regarding the Lord's supper in these verses?

- ❓ How were the Corinthians missing the mark?
- ❓ How does taking the Lord's Supper in an improper manner contradict the reason Christ gave the meal?

3. Self-Examination (1 Corinthians 11:27-34)

The Lord's Supper commemorates the cross and the suffering and death Christ endured for us. Participating in it "in an unworthy manner" (v. 27) is sinning against the Lord. Paul's callout on unworthiness was a direct reference to their actions in this situation.⁸

- ❓ What did Paul call out as sin in these verses? What warning did Paul give for those who took this ordinance in a sinful way?
- ❓ What did he encourage the Corinthian believers to do?
- ❓ What does it look like to examine our hearts before the Lord regularly today? Why do we need to do this?

Conclusion

- ❓ How are we tempted to be selfish and not consider others as more important than ourselves in the church today? What can we do about this?
- ❓ For you, does communion feel reverent and thoughtful, or does it feel more mechanical? How can we change our heart posture around this ordinance?
- ❓ How does living together in humble service as the church give us opportunity to share our hope with outsiders?