

The Lord's Supper  
and the Body of Christ

1Corinthians 11:17 - 34

Presented by Bob DeWaay  
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
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The Lord's Supper abused in Corinth

■ **1Corinthians 11:17 - 19**

But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

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
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Coming to the Lord's Supper improperly

■ **1Corinthians 11:20 - 22**

Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

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The Lord instituted a meal of remembrance

■ **1Corinthians 11:23, 24**

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which 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."

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The Lord's Supper: looking back, looking forward and proclaiming the gospel

■ **1Corinthians 11:25, 26**

In the same way He took the cup also 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.

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We should examine "*dokimazo*" to determine if we are the approved "*dokimos*" (v 19)

■ **1Corinthians 11:27, 28**

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

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The context of 1Corinthians shows that the “body” that is not discerned is the church

■ **1Corinthians 11:29** (HCSB)

For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.

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In the OT they had the same problem

■ **Isaiah 1:14 - 17**

I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them. So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood. Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.

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The Lord gives opportunity for us to repent before eschatological judgment

■ **1Corinthians 11:30 - 32**

For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

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Instructions to avoid dividing the body and shaming the poor

■ **1Corinthians 11:33 - 34**

So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

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**Applications and Implications**

- 1) We must view the body of Christ the way the Lord does
- 2) Christian unity must not be compromised by sociological factors
- 3) The Lord's Supper reminds us of the substitutionary atonement

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- 1) We must view the body of Christ the way the Lord does

■ **Ephesians 5:25b - 27**

. . . Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

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1) We must view the body of Christ the way the Lord does

■ **Acts 20:28**

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

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1) We must view the body of Christ the way the Lord does

■ **Revelation 5:9, 10**

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

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2) Christian unity must not be compromised by sociological factors

■ **1Corinthians 12:13, 14**

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.

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2) Christian unity must not be compromised by sociological factors

■ **1Corinthians 12:18 - 20**

But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body.

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2) Christian unity must not be compromised by sociological factors

■ **1Corinthians 12:21 - 23**

And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly members come to have more abundant seemliness,

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2) Christian unity must not be compromised by sociological factors

■ **1Corinthians 12:24 - 26**

whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

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3) The Lord's Supper reminds us of the substitutionary atonement

■ **2Corinthians 5:14, 15** (HCSB)

For Christ's love compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: if One died for all, then all died. And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them and was raised.

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