

Prepared to Participate
I Corinthians 11:27-34
(6/27/10 AM)

Paul gives us two serious instructions that we must observe before we participate in this service.

1. Each of Us Is to Examine Himself (27-30)

A Self Testing

- **The Lord's Table is for sinners**

The communion service is for sinners who have been saved by grace. There are no perfect saints at the Lord's Table. We are all debtors to grace. This passage is about how we come to the Lord's Table.

The Issue Is My Heart Attitude

- **The Lord's Table is Serious**

The Corinthians held a love feast, a supper as part of their observance of communion. They were treating the Lord's Table as a common meal. They were being irreverent in their attitudes. This is seen in their actions toward others in the congregation which Paul condemns in (20-22). Paul gives a serious warning here "will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." This is not teaching that the elements are the actual body and blood of Jesus. How I treat the Lord's Table reflects how I am treating Jesus.

It Was My Sin that Nailed Jesus to the Cross

- **The Lord's Table is for self-examination**

The word "examine" is *dokimazo* which means to test or prove. It was often used of testing metal to prove if it was genuine. Paul commands self-examination before coming to the Lord's Table. This means my motives, my attitudes, my actions, and my thoughts. This involves how I treat others, especially other believers. How many in the congregation had been disciplined? We don't know, but we do know it was more than a few. God does not want me to come to the Lord's Table with a callous heart or a careless attitude.

The Physical Action of Partaking at the Lord's Table Can

Lead to Divine Discipline

2. Each of Us Is To Evaluate Himself (31-34)

A Self Discerning

The word "judge" is *diakrino* which means to separate or to discriminate. Paul uses the word in 1 Corinthians 6:5. There it means to arbitrate between one Christian and another. We need to be open and honest with ourselves.

- **I need to own and confess Known Sin**

Proverbs 28:13 & 1 John 1:9 Personal sin, relational sin, sins of omission, whatever God brings to our mind.

Apart from God I am the only one who can do this but I cannot do this apart from God, Psalm 139:23-24

The Lord's Table Is a Place to Renew and Maintain My Fellowship with Jesus

- **I have a choice between self-discerning or divine discipline**

(32) "But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord"

Paul is acknowledging that none of us will do this perfectly every time. Sometimes I will become either neglectful or willful in my attitude.

When that happens God does not condemn me but He disciplines me. This is not the retribution of a judge but the loving discipline of a

father. Hebrews 12:7, "If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?"

The Lord's discipline of His children prevents condemnation. (32)
"...that we may not be condemned with the world." No true believer will ever be damned with the world. God does not deal with His children like He deals with unsaved people.

Hebrews 12:6, "For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

The unsaved person stands under the judicial condemnation of God.

The believer's sins are under the blood of Christ. However, God does take sin in the lives of His children seriously. Sometimes he applies terminal discipline resulting in premature death. "Many" (30)

Corinthian believers had experienced this already. It is possible that a weakness, sickness, or even death is a rescue of grace from a future shipwreck of faith. Paul had already taught them the importance of church discipline.

1 Corinthians 5:5, "deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

If I Will Not Obey God's Word I Will Experience God's Rod

• **Serious personal examination results in joyful congregational celebration**

(33) "Therefore, my brethren"

Whenever Paul uses this type of introduction, he is about to give his readers a stern admonition.

(33) "...when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

Paul is giving them a practical exhortation to show love and respect for one another. The Lord's Table is a family meal. He wants them to practice the things that make for unity.

Ephesians 4:2-3, "...with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

He reminds them of the higher purpose of the Lord's Table.

(34) "But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come."

There were other less important issues which Paul would set in order later.

**The Lord's Supper Reminds Me to Put Away My Selfishness
So I Can Encourage and Edify One Another**