

The Significance of Communion

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1 Corinthians 11:17-19 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. **18** In the first place, I hear that <u>when you come together as a church, there are</u> <u>divisions among you</u>, and to some extent I believe it. **19** No doubt <u>there have to be differences</u> among you to show which of you have God's approval.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching

• Divisions reveal hearts. Be on the side of displaying Christ-like behavior

1 Corinthians 11:20-22 So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, **21** for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. **22** Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

• Don't bring the worldly culture into the church. Humbly serve and love others.

James 2:1-4 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night <u>he was betrayed</u>, took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; <u>do this in remembrance of me</u>."

- O.T. (Old Testament) Concealed, N.T. (New Testament) Revealed
- O.T. Contained, N.T. Explained

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in <u>remembrance of me</u>." **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you <u>proclaim</u> the Lord's death until he comes.

Exodus 24:8 Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an <u>unworthy</u> manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Everyone ought to <u>examine themselves</u> before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. **29** For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. **30** That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. **31** But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. **32** Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

• Let's judge ourselves so God doesn't have to

Hebrews 12:10-11 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

• Allow the discipline of the Lord to help make us more holy not bitter

1 Corinthians 11:33-34 So then, my brothers and sisters, <u>when you gather</u> to eat, you should all eat together. **34** Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that <u>when you meet</u> <u>together</u> it may not result in judgment.

• 4 looks at communion. Back, Forward, Inward and Around.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

- Summary:
- Promote unity and kindness in the church
- Remember the great sacrifice Christ made for us
- Celebrate communion with reverence and thanks
- Examine our hearts and repent of sin
- Call **321.574.6970** if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.