

Don't despise the Body

Relationships part 3.
The Lord's Supper part 2.

RECAP

Looking back, looking forward

- **Passover:** looked back to Exodus.
- **The Lord's supper:**
 - We **remember** His sacrifice
 - We give thanks now, for His **present** blessings.
 - We **look forward** to his return

1 Corinthians 11:17-21

- ¹⁷ 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 when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹ No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. ²⁰ 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.!

1 Corinthians 11:22-26

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!²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ 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." ²⁵ 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 remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

- ²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves 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.

1 Corinthians 11:30-32

- 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.

1 Corinthians 11:33-34

- ³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together.
- ³⁴ Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.
- And when I come I will give further directions.

The Lord's Supper - important!

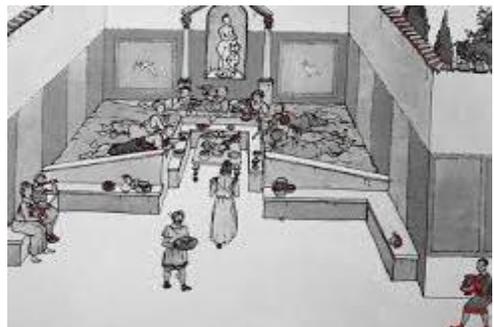
- The account is in each of the gospels
- This account is the oldest.
- Paul received this as a direct revelation from Jesus

3 purposes of communion

- Express the community's unity as the new covenant people of God
- Focus the church's memory on the death of Jesus
- An occasion for us to consider our ways and ponder God's judgment.

Context of Corinthian communion

- Corinth - a Roman colony. Therefore:
- A Roman meal in a Roman house
- A Triclinium



Triclinium (three reclining)

Nothing had changed!

- V17 'you do more harm than good by meeting!'
- Vv 20-22.
- The rich ate and ignored the poor
- Paul's message of Christ was radical to the Roman world

1 Cor. 11:27-29. A warning.

- ²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the **body and blood of the Lord**. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves 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.

Two perspectives

- Personal
 - We do need to examine ourselves and check that we are not sinning against the body and blood of Christ - holding His sacrifice in contempt.
- But that is not the whole picture.

The Lords supper

- Setting:
- Jesus with his disciples
- Washes their feet, and teaches on humility
- Shares his body as represented by the bread

'without discerning the body'

- This is the body of Christ, the fellowship of believers (developed in Ch 12)
- We need to check our own attitudes and behaviour toward other believers when we remember Christ's sacrifice. (v28)

What is the answer to the chaos?

- Paul clearly was looking for a radical, counter cultural response from the Corinthian Christians.
- We have solved the problem!
 - Communion cups!

Response?

- What is our deeper response?
 - To each other
 - To other Christians less well off than us
 - To all that He has given us?

Relationships!

- Genuine sharing has to take place in genuine relationships
- Within Woody:
 - Home groups
 - Triplets
 - Friendship groups
- The wider church:
 - Being generous as the Spirit leads

Reflection / action

- Reflection
- Action

Response

- 1 Cor 5:7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.