

In a Worthy Manner

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

Introduction: The Lord has given specific instructions on the proper manner in which our communion with Him is to be observed. Failing to partake of the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner has the affect of diluting our faith (1 Cor. 11:30).

I. Partaking in an unworthy manner (1 Cor. 11:27-29).

A. Brings condemnation.

B. "Not discerning the Lord's body"

II. Worthy is "in remembrance of Me" (1 Cor. 11:23-25; Luke 22:19-20; Mark 14:22-25).

A. It is the discernment of Christ death on the cross. It proclaims His death until His return (1 Cor. 11:26).

B. When we partake, each person must examine his/her own thoughts to assure it is discerning the Lord's body.

1. The bread represents Christ's body and the cup represents Christ's blood (1 Cor. 10:16-17).

2. Christ's sacrifice made remission of sins possible (Matt. 26:26-28).

III. Misapplications in regard to the Lord's Supper.

A. Some will state that this memorial declares His death, burial and resurrection.

1. It certainly declares His death, but I can find no scriptures that connects His burial or resurrection to the observance of the Lord's Supper. In fact, I cannot find a verse that contains the words death, burial and resurrection in it.

2. His burial and resurrection are not part of our observance. Though these subjects are vital to our salvation, if we spend our time remembering His resurrection during the Lord's Supper, we are not spending time discerning His death.

B. Not partaking due to sin.

1. The recognition of sin in our life should not prevent our participation in the memorial of the Lord's Supper. Upon recognition of sin, we pray for forgiveness (1 John 1:8-9).

2. The examining of ourselves while we partake of the Lord's Supper in 1 Cor. 11:28 is a reflection upon our proper mindset that we are partaking while remembering Christ's death. It is not an examination of our faith or an examination of our relationships with one another.

3. Notwithstanding, if we are living in sin such that we could not conscientiously partake because we are not willing to ask for forgiveness or resolve the situation, then partaking wouldn't be of profit (Matt. 5:23-24). In other words, if we recognize we are in a lost condition before God we must repent and ask for forgiveness. That might mean making public confession before being restored (Jas. 5:15-16).

C. Not partaking if one missed the morning service.

1. The concern comes from 1 Cor. 11:33. The prevalent idea given here is to partake together when assembled. In their making a common meal out of the Lord's Supper, those who had food ate before those who had none (1 Cor. 11:21). Cliffs formed within the church based upon the have and the have not (1 Cor. 11:17-21). Paul concludes that we should wait on one another when we come together to partake of the Lord's Supper.

2. When we come together Sunday evening's we wait for one another to partake of the Lord's Supper. If we served the Lord's Supper at various times throughout the service then it could be said we weren't waiting on one another as was the abuse in the early church. However, we come together on two separate occasions on the Lord's Day. Those who were not gathered in the morning still have a command to partake so we wait on one another while it is being offered. Those who assembled in the morning are not given any preferential treatment in regards to the Lord's Supper over those who gathered in the evening.

D. Failing to teach the sin of partaking in an unworthy manner.

1. Partaking in an unworthy manner is sin (1 Cor. 11:27).

2. Do we ignore sin that grace may abound (Rom. 6:1)? I do not believe we should encourage people to sin even if they are already lost.

3. I recognize there is nothing we can do to exclude a visitor even if we know they are not Christians from partaking of the memorial.

4. We should constantly teach the importance of partaking in a worthy manner even if it offends those who learn they partake in error. Teaching this one fact from the table might be enough for a non-Christian to inquire more thoroughly to the saving of his soul.

Conclusion: We must partake of the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner. That will take a clearing of our minds to reflect upon the death of our Savior upon the cross. Images of His suffering should fill our minds. Without a proper observance of His death, we would soon forget what He so lovingly did for all of us!