God is not impressed with the size of spirituality that a person projects himself or herself to have. God is not impressed with how strong a person seems to be while in front of others. God is not impressed with abilities that a person has to do great public things; however, time and time again God makes it very clear that He is looking for a heart that is right with Him. God is very interested in what is truly going on in the heart. Man may be impressed with what is going on outwardly, but God is impressed with what is going on inwardly.

THE ORDINANCE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GOD AND CLOSELY MONITORED BY GOD AND ANY BELIEVER WHO PARTICIPATES IN IT IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER WILL RECEIVE GOD’S CHASTISING JUDGMENT.

For the most part, the ordinance that has received the greatest attention, as far as instruction is concerned, is water baptism. Yet the ordinance in the Bible that is most graphically described and detailed is the Lord’s Supper.

REALITY #1 – God wants us to realize the source of the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper. 11:23a

Paul received many revelations from the Lord (i.e. II Cor. 12:1). In fact, Paul had received the entire Gospel, which he recorded in Romans directly from Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:11-12) while he was in the Arabian desert (Gal. 1:16-17).

Obviously a critical part of the Gospel was the broken body and shed blood of Christ, and Paul wanted to make certain that this ordinance which remembered this, WAS NOT a religious service invented by men; it WAS a righteous ordinance inspired by Jesus Christ.

REALITY #2 – God wants us to realize the time of the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper. 11:23b

Jesus Christ instituted His Supper the same night He was betrayed. We learn from Matt. 26:26-28 and Mark 14:22-24 that Christ instituted this supper just after He Himself acknowledged that one would betray Him. What this means is that even though Christ knew He would be betrayed, He stayed totally focused on His sacrificial work. In fact, it was this betrayal that led to His sacrifice. He took time to institute an ordinance that would actually illustrate the results of His own betrayal.

REALITY #3 – God wants us to realize the elements of the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper. 11:23c-25
Element #1 - The element of the bread. 11:23c-24

Fact #1 - It is to be partaken of by thanksgiving. 11:24a

Christ actually thanked God for the fact that His body would be broken.

Fact #2 - It is to be partaken of by breaking. 11:24b

If the ordinance is to be conducted properly, the bread is to be broken because broken bread symbolizes what happened to our Lord’s body, which He willingly allowed to take place.

Fact #3 - It is to be partaken of by remembering. 11:24c

Please notice carefully the text; it is not that the bread is the body of Jesus Christ; it is that which causes us to remember the broken body of Jesus Christ.

Fact #4 - It is to be partaken of by eating. 11:26a, 27a

The broken bread is to be eaten and this illustrates exactly what a sinful person must do in order to have a relationship with the Holy God; he must personally take in Jesus Christ into his life.

Element #2 - The element of the cup. 11:25

Fact #1 - It is to be partaken of by thanksgiving. 11:25a

The words “the same way” indicate that Christ also gave thanks for the cup, something that Matthew, Mark, and Luke all inform us (Matt. 11:27; Mark 14:23; Luke 22:19-20).

Fact #2 - It is to be partaken of after eating. 11:25b

Fact #3 - It is to be partaken of by remembering. 11:25c

Without the shedding of Christ’s blood, there would be NO forgiveness of sin. The blood of bulls and goats could only cover sin; they could not take it away (Heb. 9:22; 10:18; Acts 10:43).

Fact #4 - It is to be partaken of by drinking. 11:26b, 27b

REALITY #4 – God wants us to realize the purpose of the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper. 11:26

One purpose of the Lord’s Supper is to publicly declare, by way of visible symbolism, what Jesus Christ did for sinful man. The word “proclaim” is one that means to proclaim or declare. This IS NOT some gimmick devised by man; this is an ordinance ordained by God.
REALITY #5 – God wants us to realize the warning of the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper. 11:27-34

The word “unworthy” (11:27) is one that means to participate in the Lord’s Supper in a way that is not fitting or worthy of the standard which this service demands.

What makes one unworthy, in this context, is to partake of the Lord’s Supper when we are divisive (11:17-18), factious (11:19), indulgent (11:21-22) or self-centered (11:33).

Warning #1 - Participation in the Lord’s Supper can make one guilty. 11:27

Warning #2 - Participation in the Lord’s Supper requires self-examination. 11:28

Warning #3 - Participation in the Lord’s Supper can bring judgment. 11:29-30

1) He can cause one to become weak–spiritually and physically.
2) He can cause one to become sick–physical sickness.
3) He can cause one die–take a believer home.

Warning #4 - Participation in the Lord's Supper doesn’t have to bring judgment. 11:31

No believer has to worry about this judgment if he or she is willing to judge themselves.

However, verse 32 makes it very clear that even when a believer is judged by God, it is not a condemnatory judgment; it is a disciplinary judgment.

Even when God takes a self-indulgent, self-centered, divisive believer home, it is for disciplinary purposes, not condemnatory purposes.

Have you by faith partaken of Jesus Christ?
Have you by faith eaten of the bread of life?
Have you by faith been refreshed from the fountain of life?

If you will take Jesus Christ into your life today, you will NEVER face God’s condemnation.