

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022AM

**1 Corinthians 11:17-26** – “Partake in a Worthy Manner”

- A. For years when this church gathered together to partake of the Lord’s Supper we have always had a reading of **1 Cor 11** in preparation for the holy sacrament.
- B. This passage is given here in the Bible as a loving, solemn warning. Scripture is full of warnings because God loves His children. Such warnings are also essential for those who may be in a spiritual stupor & need to wake-up to either new life in Christ or a serious walk of sanctification.
- C. Paul wrote this epistle to a church wherein many came out of paganism & gross immorality. This church needed lots of help & correction from Paul.

God calls you to partake of the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner.	I. UNWORTHY PARTAKING II. WORTHY PARTAKING
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I. **UNWORTHY PARTAKING** There are 2 main ways the Corinthians partook in an unworthy manner

A. Selfish & careless irreverence: → **v17 ... vv20-22:**

- 1. There are not many details given here; however, we know for sure some began to eat of the bread & drink of the wine before the rest of the congregation showed up.
  - a. Those in the church were surely familiar with **Ps 104:15** “**wine... makes man’s heart glad;**” however, some lacked control of both food & alcohol & became drunk (**v21**).
  - b. This early arrival to indulge likely became a habitual practice among some.
- 2. The text gives us clues as to why the church leadership didn’t put a stop to such selfish behavior. Those guilty of these acts were affluent & were likely given favoritism.
  - a. **v22** tells us that they owned homes. Those who came late & missed out on the Lord’s Supper were described as “**hungry**” (**v21**) & as shamed & “**have nothing**” (**v22**).
  - b. Dr. Kistemaker: “Instead they ate without waiting for the day laborers and slaves.”<sup>1</sup>
  - c. Again church leaders may have said, “These men give the most tithes. We can’t correct them. They might get offended.” → Turn to **James 2:1-9**

B. Unrepentant, sinful partaking: → **vv27-30**

- 1. These verses don’t say outright that this unworthy partaking was because of unrepentant sin. This truth can be clearly reasoned from what is written.
- 2. It is to eat & drink in an unworthy, guilty manner is to do so without self-examination. (**v28**). Such examination involves judging ourselves. → Look at **v31**
  - a. It is almost impossible to examine & judge yourself without looking at God’s law.
  - b. It is almost impossible to examine & judge yourself without looking at your sin—the many ways each of us fail to measure up to God’s law.
  - c. Consider how some partake unworthily by not examining & judging themselves.
    - 1) Today’s text says that a careless, presumptuous partaking is an unworthy way.
    - 2) Another unworthy way is common among many in the Roman Catholic administration of the Lord’s Supper through the doctrine “ex opera operato” (Latin for “by the work worked”). Some can live in great sin for years yet be relieved because grace is automatically given to them.

<sup>1</sup> Kistemaker, Simon, *New Testament Commentary: 1 Corinthians*, p 390

## II. WORTHY PARTAKING

A. The 1<sup>st</sup> way is found at the end of the words of institution. → Look at vv23-26.

1. This sacrament is not merely symbolic. We believe the elements are symbolic, there is a true & real spiritual presence of Christ when we partake by faith.
2. When we partake by faith, God works His grace in us to grow in holiness through this means of grace.

a. WSC 91: *“How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?”*

Answer: *“The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, & the working of His Spirit in them that by faith receive them.”*

3. Those who partake with true faith display a very visual proclamation of the gospel! →v26.

B. Worthy partaking calls for self-examination— judging yourself. v28 ... vv31-32

1. 2 Cor 13:5 **“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?”**

2. Paul called for such testing or judging of one’s self in Gal 5:16-26. Turn there.

a. If these deeds or sins of the flesh listed here characterize your life rather than the fruit of the Holy Spirit, you need to ask God for true repentance. You may need to ask God for a new, believing heart.

b. These are loving words of warning given by the Holy Spirit as in v21 **“just as I have forewarned U, that those who practice such things will Ø inherit the KoG.”**

3. WSC 97: *“What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's supper?”*

Answer: *“It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon Him, of their repentance, love, & new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat & drink judgment to themselves.”*

a. True repentance involves a turning away from sin— an endeavor after “new obedience.”

b. Such an endeavor will never be perfect; however, a true Christian demonstrates spiritual life by being at war with sin rather than at peace with it.

C. Worthy partaking is not selfish as to deny others of the sacrament. → vv33-34.

Review, further application, & conclusion: