

## How Jesus Really Does 'Get Us'

1 Corinthians 11; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-19-2023

### The Christian Life

The Christian life is a life of faith and this faith needs to be strengthened. And the Lord's Supper is important to help us do this. Jesus does truly 'get us.' And the Lord's Supper communicates that in a wonderful way.

- 1. Problems with the Lord's Supper Observance (17-22)** The members of the Corinthian church are not using, but abusing, the Lord's Supper. They are not celebrating the Lord's Supper, but desecrating the Lord's Supper!
- 2. Proper Observance of the Lord's Supper (23-26)** After Paul rebukes them for their abuse of the Lord's Supper, he reminds them of what it's all about. Obviously, the Corinthians had lost sight of what the Lord's Supper means and how it should be celebrated.

### *Backdrop of the Lord's Supper*

- Passover – Exodus 12:21-27
- Peace Offerings – Leviticus 7:11-18, 28-34; Deuteronomy 12:7, 12
- Covenant Meals – Jeremiah 31:31-34; Genesis 26:26-31
- Pagan Rituals – 1 Corinthians 10:14-22
- Jesus' Sermon – John 6:47-57
- The Last Supper – Matthew 26:17-30; John 13:12-35
- The Future Marriage Supper of the Lamb – Revelation 19:6-9; Matthew 26:26-29

### *What is the Lord's Supper?*

- It is a 'sign': it points beyond itself to the reality of Jesus Christ and what He did for us.
- It is a 'seal': it marks those who partake as those who trust in Jesus Christ and what He did for us.
- It is a 'means of grace': it is a means of spiritual nourishment for the strengthening of our faith and love.
- It is the 'table of the Lord': it is a corporate meal and celebration with others in the body of Christ, gathered locally, by faith and through the Holy Spirit.

- 3. Punishment for Improper Observance of the Lord's Supper (27-32)** The Lord's Supper somehow involves the body and blood of the Lord because to partake of the Supper in an unworthy way is to incur guilt regarding Christ's body and blood! This means that the unworthy participant will be guilty of dishonoring the precious body and blood of Christ!

### *Who should not partake of the Lord's Supper?*

- All those who *do not claim to be Christians* and are not trusting in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- All those who *claim to be Christians* but:

- Clearly *reject* the essential doctrines of the gospel.
- Clearly *refuse* to love and live as the Word of God commands.

*Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?*

- All those who claim to be Christians and are trusting in Jesus as their Lord and Savior even if:
  - They *struggle to trust* as they should.
  - They *struggle to love* as they should.
  - They *lack assurance* of their salvation.

**4. Practical Considerations for the Observance of the Lord's Supper (33-34)** Paul concludes with some simple and practical directions: (1) wait until everyone arrives before you begin the meal (2) eat before you come to the meal if you are hungry.

- *What are we to remember as we remember Jesus Christ?*
  - His life and death and resurrection. – Matthew 26:26-29
  - That we are forgiven. – Matthew 26:26-29
  - That we will inherit the kingdom. – Matthew 26:26-29
  - That God loves us. - Romans 5:8
  - That He is with us. – Romans 8:31-39
- *What am I doing when I partake of the Lord's Supper?*
  - I am remembering Jesus. – Luke 22:19
  - I am feeding on Christ. – John 6:54
  - I am reaffirming my faith. – Matthew 10:32
  - I am renewing my commitment to love. – Matthew 16:24; 5:23-24
  - I am proclaiming the gospel. – 1 Corinthians 11:26
  - I am affirming my unity with the body of Christ. – 1 Corinthians 10:17

**Conclusion: How does Jesus really 'get us'?**

- Jesus 'gets us' because He is God and He created us to be holy and happy in Him.
- Jesus 'gets us' because He understands the depth of our sin and our need for forgiveness and righteousness and that's why He came and provided just what we need.
- Jesus 'gets us' because He understands what it is like to be tempted and tested in a fallen world and He knows how to help us to trust and love in the face of great hostilities.
- Jesus 'gets us' because He understands our desire to be fully loved and to be truly happy and He fulfills those desires to all those who trust Him to reconcile them to God.
- Jesus 'gets us' because the only way I can benefit from what He's done for sinners is if I turn from my sin and trust Him as my Lord and Savior and thus, give my life to Him and entrust all that I am and need and desire to Him.