

## SERMON TEXT: 1Corinthians 11:17–34

### SERMON TITLE: The Lord's Supper Is the Lord's!

**Main idea:** The Lord commanded the Lord's Supper in which the Lord Himself gives the Lord Himself to the Lord's body and confirms the Lord's covenant between the Lord and those who are the Lord's own, as they proclaim the Lord's death until the Lord comes.

<sup>17</sup> Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. <sup>18</sup> For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. <sup>19</sup> For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. <sup>20</sup> Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. <sup>21</sup> For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. <sup>22</sup> What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>25</sup> In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

<sup>27</sup> Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. <sup>30</sup> For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. <sup>31</sup> For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

<sup>33</sup> Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. <sup>34</sup> But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

### Introduction

**Where we are in the series:** God is very particular and very serious about how His people are to conduct public worship

**Where we are in the text:** The apostle is addressing those particulars of worship that need most urgent attention. And one of those most urgent particulars is how they take the Lord's Supper. One might preach many sermons—even from just this passage—and still not cover the subject. But just "flying over at 40,000 feet," we hope by God's help to see plenty this morning.

#### 1. The Lord's Supper is a together-at-once meal

- Whatever else was true of their worship meal, it was NOT the Lord's supper, because each took his own supper. This is NOT an individual meal.
- Individualism at the table reveals that we aren't understanding what the rest of this passage teaches. What will they do, if they have properly understood the teaching of this passage? "Wait for one another"
- This is not your private communion with God. You must act sincerely and personally, but this is not the same as individually. You must not act individually. You must act *corporately*, as a *body*.

#### 2. The Lord's Supper is the Lord's meal

- The Lord commands it. "I received from the Lord."
- The Lord started it. "The Lord Jesus on the night in which He was betrayed"
- The Lord modeled it. "This do."
- The Lord gives Himself. "This is My body which is broken for you" (cf. 10:16–17)
- The Lord confirms the binding relationship between God and His people in Himself. "This cup is the new covenant in My blood." You do not belong to God in covenant by yourself. You belong to God in covenant in Christ, as a part of Christ, as a member of His body. (cf. 10:16–17)
- The Lord's people are proclaiming the Lord's death until the Lord comes.

#### 3. The Lord's Supper is a "faith" meal

- The reason that it must be taken in this particular way is because this is the particular way that comes from understanding and responding to particular truths about the Lord, about ourselves, and about the Supper
- Same word for "discerning" in v29 and "judge" (ourselves) in v31. We are to come to the table as those who are aware of Christ and of ourselves, who have come to particular conclusions about Christ and about ourselves.
- And without the preposition for "judged" at the end of v31 and beginning of v32. A "training" action in which the Lord is responding to what they are doing.
- Still another preposition for "condemned" at end of v32. The *action* that the Lord will take on the last day upon those who *have not* come to faith in Him. What will rightly keep you from the table may completely keep you out of glory!

### Conclusion

So let us wait for one another at the Lord's Supper, not each taking his own, but all taking together. Let us be nourished by Christ! Let us be assured by His binding covenant to belong to us! And as those whom He has bound by covenant to Himself, let us reaffirm our devotedness to live entirely unto Him.