

“Examine Yourself!”
1 Corinthians 11:27-30

Introduction:

1. Let's Head Back To 1 Corinthians 11 This Morning!
 - Where We Have Been Looking Specifically At The Lord's Supper!
 - Because The Corinthian Church Was Not Participating In It Properly!
 - What God Meant To Help Feed Their Souls:
 - They Were Using To Feed Their Flesh!
2. I Would Like To Begin By Reading:
 - The Entire Passage!
 - And Then Focus On Just A Few More Verses Of This Very Familiar Passage!
 - Read 11:20-34:
 - After Identifying The Problem In 11:20-22:
 - Paul Then Explains What The Lord's Supper Is All About!
 - The Bread Represents The Body Of Christ!
 - The Cup Represents The Blood Of Christ!
 - And When We Come To The Table The Way God Intends:
 - We Can Grow In Our Fellowship With Our Savior, Jesus Christ!
 - Never Forget The Personal Invitation Christ Extends:
 - In These Verses To You!
 - To Have Real Fellowship With Him!
3. After Explaining ***What*** The Lord's Supper Entails:
 - Next - Paul Explains ***How*** The Church Should Participate In The Lord's Supper!
 - And This Is What We Will Look At This Morning In 11:27-30!
 - And As We Do:
 - I Want Us To Examine Our Own Hearts & Our Own Motives When We Approach The Lord's Supper, Or When We Come To The Lord To Worship Him At Any Time!
 - The Nature Of The Lord's Supper:
 - Demands The Right Response From Every Christian & Every Church!
 - And This Morning, We Need To Examine Ourselves & Our Response To The Lord Whenever We Worship Him & Whenever We Come To The Lord's Supper!

* The First Thing We See In 11:27-30 Is:

1. *The Significant Nature Of The Lord's Supper!*

- The Significant Nature:
 - Of The Lord's Supper!
 - We Need To Remember That The Lord' Supper Is Something Special! Something Very Special!
 - 11:27 - "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord!"
 - In This Verse, Paul Begins To Explain How We Should & How We Should Not Participate In The Lord's Supper!
 - And In Doing So, He Reminds Us Of The Significant Nature Of The Lord's Supper! It Is Something Special!
- The Lord's Supper Is:
 - About A Special Person!
 - And We Must Remember This!
 - In 11:27 - When Paul Uses The Word "Wherefore":
 - He Is Telling Us To Look Back At Something That Should Impact Our Attitudes & Actions!
 - When Paul Uses The Word "Wherefore":
 - He Is Pointing Back To 11:26, And Reminds Us Why We Jesus Gave Us The Lord's Supper In The First Place!
 - 11:26 - "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come!"
 - "Ye Do Shew The Lord's Death Till He Come!"
 - The Lord's Supper Is About A Special Person!
 - The Lord Jesus Christ! And The Fellowship He Offers To Everyone Who Comes To Him Through Faith!
 - And The Lord's Supper Is The Time For Every One Of His People To:
 - Remember Jesus & His Great Mission & Sacrifice For Sin!

- Reveal Jesus & His Love!
- Rejoice In Jesus & His Coming!
- And It Is Because The Lord's Supper Is:
 - About This Special Person – Jesus Christ!
- The Lord's Supper Also:
 - Calls For A Special Practice!
 - And We Must Do It His Way Or No Way!
 - 11:27 - "Wherefore – Because The Lord's Supper Is All About A Special Person, The Lord Jesus Christ – Whosoever Shall Eat This Bread, And Drink This Cup Of The Lord, Unworthily!"
 - There Is A Special Way In Which We Are To Come To The Lord's Supper! In A "Worthy" Manner, And Not In An "Unworthy" Manner!
 - What Does It Mean To Eat & Drink "Unworthily"?
 - It Means To Participate In The Lord's Supper In A Way & In A Manner That Does Please The Lord!
 - In Truth - We Are All "Unworthy" To Come To The Lord's Supper!
 - We Are All Sinners! We Have All Fallen Short Of The Glory Of God! We Have All Failed The Lord! But This Is Not What "Unworthily" Means Here!
 - We Come To The Lord's Supper Primarily To Remember & Celebrate The Value & Worth Of Jesus Christ!
 - Not To Just Remember Our Insignificance & Worthlessness!
 - No - The Fact Of Our "Unworthiness" To Participate In The Lord's Supper Ought To Impact How We Do Participate In The Lord's Supper!
 - In Faith! Not In Our Worth – But In Christ's Worth!
 - In Love! Knowing That If We Have Been Forgiven Much, We Ought To Love Much!
 - **IE:** Church In Ephesus - Revelation 2:4 - "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love!"
 - In Thankfulness! And Gratefulness! For All That Jesus Has Done & Continues To Do For Us!
 - Because The Lord's Supper Is:
 - All About A Special Person!
 - It Calls For A Special Practice! Eating & Drinking In A Way That Is Worthy Of Our Savior! In Faith / In Love / And In Thankfulness!
 - Because "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing!" (Revelation 5:12)
- But Lord's Supper Can Also:
 - Have A Special Problem!
 - And This Problem Is Seen When We Participate In The Lord's Supper In An "Unworthy" Manner!
 - 11:27 - "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord!"
 - The Problem Is - If We Participate In The Lord's Supper In A Way That Is Not Fitting / Worthy Of The Lord Jesus - We Sin, And Can Experience A Serious Guilt!
 - When Jesus Was Arrested & Taken To The Cross To Be Crucified:
 - He Was Scorned & Mocked & Ridiculed By The Crowds!
 - Not Just The Priests / Politicians / But The People As Well! Even One Of The Prisoners / The Thief On The Cross!
 - When You & I Participate In The Lord's Supper:
 - In A Way That Is "Unworthy" - In A Way That Is Unfitting & Dishonoring To The Lord - It Is As If We Are Scorning & Mocking & Ridiculing The Sacrifice Jesus Christ Made On The Cross As Well!
- So: Examine Yourself!
 - When You Come To The Lord To Worship!
 - And When You Come To The Lord's Supper:
 - Is It Something Special – Truly Special – To You?
 - Because It Is All About The Most Special Person In All The World, The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - It Is Not About You / It Is Not About Others / It Is All About Him!
 - And Because We Are Not Deserving Of Anything That He Has Done For Us & Offered To Us:
 - We Can Only Come In Faith / In Love / In Thankfulness!
 - This Is The Right Way & The Right Manner To Worship!
 - The Nature Of The Lord's Supper:

- Demands The Right Response From Each One Of Us!
- It Is Significant & Special!
- So Respond In Faith / In Love / In Thankfulness!

* The Second Thing We See In These Verses Is:

2. ***The Searching Nature Of The Lord's Supper!***

- The Searching Nature:
 - Of The Lord's Supper!
 - We Need To Also Remember That The Lord's Supper Is A Time Of Searching & Examination!
- 11:28 - "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup!"
 - This Verse Tells Us That The Point Of This Personal Examination Is:
 - Not To ***Prevent*** You From Participating In The Lord's Supper!
 - But To ***Prepare*** You To Participate In The Lord's Supper!
 - Remember That Jesus Desires Fellowship With His People!
 - And Has Given Us The Lord's Supper & Other Times Of Worship To Grow In Our Fellowship With Him!
 - When Jesus Says: "Take – Eat" & "Take – Drink" - He Does So To Bring Us & Invite Us To Himself!
 - So What Is The Searching Nature Of The Lord's Supper All About?
- A Proper Inspection!
 - "But Let A Man Examine Himself!"
 - What Are We Looking For In Ourselves?
 - Answers To These Questions:
 - Who Am I? In Relation To Jesus Christ?
 - An Understanding Of Our Own Wickedness & Worthlessness!
 - And An Understanding Of Christ's Righteousness & Infinite Worth!
 - Romans 7:24-25 - "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? / I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"
 - How Am I? Coming To Worship & To The Lord's Supper?
 - Psalm 139:23-24 - "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: / And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" (David)
 - Let Your Examination / Inspection Bring You Back To The Foot Of The Cross Of Jesus Christ!
 - We Should Do This Each Time We Come To Worship! As Well At Times Of The Lord's Supper!
- A Proper Intention!
 - "But Let A Man Examine Himself, And So!"
 - "And So" – In That Same Manner Of Humble Examination & Exaltation Of Jesus Christ!
 - The Purpose Of The Examination / Inspection:
 - Is To Bring You Back To Your Savior!
 - He Is The One Who Forgives / Cleanses / Sanctifies / Uses!
 - Psalm 103:1-5 - "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. / Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: / Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy: diseases; / Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; / Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's!"
 - So Come To The Lord:
 - In Full Submission To His Word!
 - And In Full Surrender To His Will!
- A Proper Involvement!
 - In The Lord's Supper Itself!
 - "And So Let Him Eat Of That Bread, And Drink Of That Cup!"
 - Do So!
 - Enjoy The Sweet Fellowship That Jesus Christ Has Offered To Every Single One Of His People!
 - Again: The Point Of This Personal Examination:
 - Is Not To ***Prevent*** You From Participating In The Lord's Supper!
 - But Is To ***Prepare*** You To Participate In The Lord's Supper!
 - So Get Involved With It!
 - Avail Yourself Of The Fellowship He Offers!
 - Take Him Up On His Invitation! (**IE**: Invitation To Paul & Marie's Wedding)
 - You Will Not Regret It!

- So: Examine Yourself!
 - When You Come To The Lord To Worship!
 - And When You Come To The Lord's Supper:
 - Are You Letting God Speak To You Through His Word?
 - Are You Letting Him Search You & Try You?
 - "Let A Man Examine Himself!"
 - Is Not A Suggestion, But Is A Command! An Imperative! And Then Go To Jesus, Whose Own Shed Blood Is "A Fountain Opened" – "For Sin & For Uncleaness!"
 - And Renew That Close Fellowship That He Offers!
 - The Nature Of The Lord's Supper:
 - Demands The Right Response From Each One Of Us!
 - It Is A Time Of Searching!
 - So Respond To What You Find In Yourself By Trusting In What You Find In Jesus!

* And Then A Third Thing We See In These Verses Is:

3. *The Serious Nature Of The Lord's Supper!*

- The Serious Nature:
 - Of The Lord's Supper!
 - It Is A Time Of Thinking & Considering The Consequences Of Not Having The Right Approach!
 - 11:29-30 - "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. / For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep!"
 - The Corinthian Church Was Approaching The Lord's Supper & His Worship In A Trivial / Frivolous Way!
 - And They Failed To Consider The Serious Consequences That They Were Experiencing!
 - These Verses Serve As A Warning:
 - To Any Christian & To Any Church:
 - That Approaches Worship & The Lord's Supper In Particular In Such A Light-Hearted & Inappropriate Way! (**IE:** The Harlem Shake - In Church!)
 - Whenever We Approach The Lord:
 - Whether In Worship Or In The Lord's Supper:
 - We Must Think About & Consider:
 - The Displeasure Of The Lord!
 - When His People Worship Him "Unworthily!"
 - Without Faith / Without Love / Without Thankfulness / Without Humility / Without A Heart Focused On Him!
 - "For He That Eateth And Drinketh Unworthily, Eateth And Drinketh Damnation To Himself!"
 - "Damnation" Can Also Be Translated "Judgment!"
 - If A Christian Or A Church Approaches God In Trivial & Frivolous Ways, Especially For The Lord's Supper:
 - They Are Just Asking For Trouble!
 - They Are Inviting The Judgment & Punishment Of God On Themselves, Because They Are Displeasing Him!
 - This "Judgment" Is Described More In 11:32, And Is Different Than The "Judgment" Reserved For Unbelievers!
 - But God Often Corrects His People & Chastens Them Through Personal Problems & Pain In This Life!
 - Seek To Please God In All That You Do!
 - 10:31 - "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!"
 - We Must Also Think About & Consider:
 - The Difference Of The Lord!
 - "Not Discerning The Lord's Body!"
 - There Is & Ought To Be A Difference:
 - Between A Normal Supper & The Lord's Supper!
 - There Is & Ought To Be A Difference:
 - Between The Worship Of The World & The Worship Of The Lord!
 - There Is & Ought To Be A Difference:
 - Between The World & The Church!
 - But When We Come To Worship The Lord:
 - Or Come To The Lord's Supper Without "Discerning" & Maintaining Those Differences, We Are Not Bringing Glory To The Lord!
 - And When This Happens:

- We May Experience:
- The Discipline Of The Lord!
 - 11:30 - "For This Cause Many Are Weak And Sickly Among You, And Many Sleep!"
 - Because Of **HOW** Many Christians:
 - In The Corinthian Church:
 - Approached God In Worship:
 - Approached The Lord's Supper:
 - God Brought His Discipline & Judgment Upon Them!
 - In The Form Of Sickness!
 - "Many Are Weak & Sickly!"
 - And Even In The Form Of Death!
 - "And Many Sleep!"
 - Does God Take His Worship Seriously?
 - The First Commandment Deals With His Worship!
 - **IE:** Remember Nadab & Abihu - The Sons Of Aaron - Who "Offered Strange Fire Before The Lord" In Worship Of Him - What Happened To Them? "And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD!" (Leviticus 10:2)
 - So: Examine Yourself!
 - When You Come To The Lord To Worship!
 - And When You Come To The Lord's Supper:
 - You Need To Think About & Consider:
 - The Serious Nature Of Worshiping God!
 - Are You Approaching Him:
 - Through His Son, Jesus Christ?
 - He Is The Only Way!
 - By Worshiping Him In Spirit & In Truth?
 - In Reverence & Love?
 - Sowing To The Spirit & Not To The Flesh?
 - The Nature Of The Lord's Supper:
 - Demands The Right Response From Each One Of Us!
 - It Is Serious!
 - So Respond With This Kind Of Worship: "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth!" (Joshua 24:14)

Conclusion:

1. This Is How We Are To Approach The Lord:
 - In Worship & Especially In The Lord's Supper!
 - The Nature Of The Lord's Worship:
 - And The Nature Of The Lord's Supper:
 - Demands The Right Response From Each One Of Us!
2. So: Examine Yourself!
 - And Let Your Examination Draw You Again & Again To The Foot Of The Cross!
 - Remembering That You Are Unworthy!
 - And Remembering That Jesus Is Worthy!
 - And Pray, As David Did:
 - Psalm 51:10 - "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me!"
 - And Come & Worship & Participate In The Lord's Supper:
 - With The Clean Heart & The Right Spirit That Jesus Himself Gives You By His Grace Through Faith In Him!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com