

## ***Examine Yourself and Eat (11:17-34)***

### **I. Introduction**

- A. The problem: **A Lack of Unity**
  - 1. Illustration: A man stranded on a desert island displays disunity
  - 2. Strong Scriptural terms show God's hatred of discord (Pr 6:14-19)
  - 3. Illustrations of discord in the modern church
- B. The historical foreground of Corinthian divisions
- C. Read text / outline sermon / pray

### **II. Desecration (1 Corinthians 11:17-22)**

- A. **First Century Agape feasts**
  - 1. What they should look like
  - 2. How they actually did look like in Corinth
  - 3. Paul's mock disbelief (v. 18)
  - 4. God's good use of divisions (v. 19)
  - 5. The specific problem in Corinth (vss 20-21)
  - 6. Paul's outrage (vs 22)
    - a. God's care and provision for the poor, through His people (Ex 22:25, Lev 14:21, Dt 15:11, Ps 82:3, Neh 8)
    - b. The carnal attitude of the rich toward the poor (Pr 19:7, 14:20)

### **III. Declaration (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)**

- A. A beautiful ironic passage
  - 1. We only have these words because of the Corinthians abuses
  - 2. Jesus instituted this practice on the night He was betrayed
  - 3. The earliest record of the Lord's own words at the Last Supper
  - 4. "*given for you*" a substitutionary atonement
- B. A fulfillment of the Passover
  - 1. "*do this in remembrance of me*" a feast of remembrance (Ex 12)
  - 2. **bread**
    - a. bread of affliction (unleavened) – a broken sinless body
  - 3. **cup**
    - a. a covenant of blood (Heb 9:22, 10:4, 9:13-14)
    - b. the severity of breaking a covenant of blood
- C. A true preaching of the Gospel
  - a. Why we celebrate the Lord's Supper every Sunday

### **IV. Direction (1 Corinthians 11:27-34)**

- A. A misunderstood and often misapplied text
  - 1. It does not teach ruthless self-examination or "naval gazing"
  - 2. An *unworthy participant* or *participating in an unworthy manner*
  - 3. The context is sins of disunity in the church
    - a. Discord or disunity is a serious sin
- B. Application
  - 1. *Examine yourself* – do not be presumptuous
    - a. be sure that you are a Christian
    - b. some questions you can ask yourself before coming to the Table
  - 2. *Eat* – do not deprive yourself of this power means of grace