



Communion (The Lord's Supper)

May 31, 2026

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Introduction:

How would you describe your experience with Communion?

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17But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. **18**For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, **19**for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. **20**When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. **21**For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. **22**What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

23For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24**and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." **25**In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." **26**For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

27Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. **28**Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29**For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. **30**That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. **31**But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. **32**But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

33So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another—**34**if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.



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The Lord's Supper was.....

1. A full meal:

- Scripture describes not an individual partaking of a wafer and a cup of juice, but a full meal during which the participants' attention was turned to bread and wine as a time of remembering Jesus' death.

"a practice which separates the sacrament from the brotherhood meal turns the former into a strange, almost heathen rite which totally lacks it's bodily expression in the context of the whole life of it's participants".
Eduard Schweizer

2. A time to love one another:

- Paul is addressing the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians because they had lost focus on the communal nature of the meal. They were supposed to be keeping the body in mind, but we're going about the meal, caring for their own needs first.
- The Lord's supper, as part of the larger gathering of believers was a time specifically and practically put into action the "one another" commands of scripture.

3. A spiritually potent practice:

- To be potent is to be powerful, influential or effective. This could be positive or negative.
- Paul attributes the death and sickness of some to not "discerning the body" when they came together for the Lord's Supper.

Reflection:

1. Does our practice of "communion" separated from, but followed by, a "fellowship" meal obey and fulfill the intention of scripture?

2. Is there something we could do differently to be more closely aligned with what we see of the Lord's Supper in scripture?

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