



ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

“Communion Behavior” 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

No. 2560

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Shortly before his crucifixion, Jesus shared bread and wine with His disciples. He asked them to continue doing this as a means of remembering Him. For almost two millennia the church has obeyed, but not without problems.

I. Trouble at the Table. vv. 17-22

- A. Coming together—or coming apart?
 - 1. Coming to...
 - 2. Coming after...
 - 3. Coming together... (7 usages)
- B. Church or clique?
 - 1. Called out people or...
 - 2. Class conscious people.
- C. Communion or commotion?
 - 1. Celebrating the Lord’s Supper or...
 - 2. Decimating the Lord’s people.
 - a. By selfish indulgence.
 - b. By self-centered insensitivity.

II. Teaching Concerning the Table. vv. 23-34

- A. The upward look—“I received from the Lord...passed on to you.” v. 23
- B. The backward look. vv. 24-26
 - 1. The event—the Passover meal.
 - 2. The situation—“the night He was *handed over*.”
 - 3. The action—Bread broken, thanksgiving and sharing.
 - 4. The application:
 - a. “This is my body which is for you.” See 10:4; Galatians 4:25
 - b. “This is my body which is for you.” cf. 15:3; Isaiah 53:4f
 - 5. The instruction—“Do this in remembrance of Me.”
 - 6. The action—Cup (see Isaiah 51:17f; Matthew 20:22) after supper.
 - 7. The explanation—“the new covenant in my blood.” Jeremiah 31:31f
 - 8. The proclamation—“you proclaim the Lord’s death...”
- C. The forward look—“until he comes.” vv. 27-32
 - 1. The goal orientation.
 - 2. The urgency motivation.
- D. The inward look. vv. 27-32
 - 1. Participation in an unworthy manner is sin against the Lord.
 - a. That is—“without recognizing the body of the Lord.”
 - b. The body of the Lord—the community of believers?
 - c. The body of the Lord, i.e. the sacrifice of the Savior?
 - 2. Abuse of the table leads to discipline—even sickness or death.
 - 3. Self-evaluation and self-discipline are therefore called for.
- E. The outward look. vv. 33-34
 - 1. If Communion means communion let’s commune.
 - 2. If we appreciate His death let’s proclaim to those who don’t.

Points to Ponder: Which way do I need to be looking? What should I be doing?