

1 Corinthians 11 v 17-34

17 But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together. 18 First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it. 19 But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized!

20 When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper. 21 For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others. As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk. 22 What? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor? What am I supposed to say? Do you want me to praise you? Well, I certainly will not praise you for this!

23 For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread 24 and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it." 26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

27 So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. 29 For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honouring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

31 But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. 32 Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

33 So, my dear brothers and sisters, when you gather for the Lord's Supper, wait for each other. 34 If you are really hungry, eat at home so you won't bring judgment upon yourselves when you meet together. I'll give you instructions about the other matters after I arrive.

Questions:

What is the largest party you have ever hosted? What food and drink did you serve?

Have you ever been to an event where you felt excluded? What event was it and how did it feel?

1. What images come to mind when you read the description of the scene in vs 20 – 22?
2. What changes would have to be made if they were really to celebrate the “Lord’s Supper”?
3. Have you ever been to a church where there were divisions amongst the members? What happened?
4. What are the key points in vs 23 – 25?
5. What does v 26 tell us about communion?
6. What is meant by: Eating and drinking unworthily (v27)
Sinning against the body and blood of the Lord (v27)
Eating and drinking without honouring the body of Christ (v 29)
Eating and drinking God’s judgement upon yourself (v29)
Examine ourselves (v31)
7. What is the meaning of v 30?

The poor in Corinth were not able to participate fully. How does our church discriminate against people? Are there ways in which we could become more inclusive?