

Studies In First Corinthians

(I Corinthians 11:17-34)

1. Were the Christians assembling in Corinth united when they assembled together?

No: *“(17) Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. (18) For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it” (I Corinthians 11:17-18).*

- When brethren assemble together it should be for good (**I Thessalonians 5:11** and **Hebrews 10:23-25**).
- It was reported to Paul that they were divided (**I Corinthians 1:10-13**).

2. What existed among those assembling in Corinth so that those, which were approved among them, could be made known?

Heresies: *“For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you” (I Corinthians 11:19).*

- Heresies are “party’s; sects; factions” [Strong’s # 139] (cf. **Acts 5:17** and **Acts 15:5**).
- The party spirit is damnable (**Galatians 5:19-21** and **II Peter 2:1**).
- We should never have such things amongst us (**Romans 12:10; 16** and **I Corinthians 12:25**).

3. How were those assembling in Corinth abusing the Lord’s Supper?

By turning into a common meal wherein they also divided up: *“(20) When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord’s supper. (21) For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken” (I Corinthians 11:20-21).*

- They turned it into a common meal. Such eating is not a work of the church (**Romans 14:17**).
- Some have said they had alcohol because of the word “drunken”. This word does not prove alcohol was a problem in the assembly at Corinth. The word could simply mean they had plenty to drink. In fact, that is the implication in comparison to those who were hungry.

4. What location did the Lord specify as the appropriate place for common meals?

Your house (not the assembly of the saints): *“What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not” (I Corinthians 11:22).*

- We should open our homes for meals, not the assembly (**Acts 2:46**).

5. What reference point did Paul use to establish how the Lord's Supper is to be observed?
 He referenced what Jesus actually said/did when He established His memorial: *"(23) For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: (24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. (25) After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me"* (**I Corinthians 11:23-25**).
- **Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, and Luke 22:13-20.**
6. What do we "shew" [proclaim] each time we partake of the Lord's Supper?
 The Lord's death: *"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come"* (**I Corinthians 11:26**).
7. Can you partake of the Lord's Supper unworthily?
 Yes: *"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"* (**I Corinthians 11:27**).
- Worship to God has always required cleanliness (**II Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 21:27, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 1:11-16, Isaiah 59:1-3, Jeremiah 6:19-20, Jeremiah 14:10-12, Amos 5:21-24, Matthew 23:14, John 9:31, I Timothy 2:8, and I Peter 3:12**).
8. What should you do to be sure that you are worthy to partake of the Lord's Supper?
 Examine yourself: *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup"* (**I Corinthians 11:28**).
- **Haggai 1:5; 7, and II Corinthians 13:5.**
9. Could you lose your soul over partaking of the Lord's Supper unworthily?
 Yes: *"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body"* (**I Corinthians 11:29**).
- Consider what it means no to discern the Lord's body (cf. **Hebrews 10:26-31**).
10. Why were some spiritually ill in Corinth?
 Because they did not examine [judge] themselves: *"(30) For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. (31) For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged"* (**I Corinthians 11:30-31**).
- **Lamentations 3:40.**

11. What will being corrected prevent?

Being condemned with the world: *“But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world” (I Corinthians 11:32).*

- **Luke 13:3; 5.**

12. If a brother or sister in Christ were late to the assembly, should we wait for him or her to partake of the Lord’s Supper?

Yes: *“Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another” (I Corinthians 11:33).*

- The Lord’s Supper is to be partaken of as a communion [fellowship] TOGETHER (**Acts 20:7** and **I Corinthians 10:16**).

13. If brethren are hungry, should the church assemble for a meal?

No: *“And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come” (I Corinthians 11:34).*

- When brethren eat together such should be a work of individual Christians, not the local church (**Romans 12:13** and **I Peter 4:9**).