

# Sermon: The Lord's Supper

Text: I Corinthians 11:17-34 ESV

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**Introduction:** The main text in the Corinthian letter this morning is the earliest record of teaching about the Lord's Supper, even before the gospel accounts. The Lord's Supper has been a source of controversy within the Church for years. Early in the Church's history this was the case and continues to be the case, but it need not be.

It seems to me the text helps us to understand 3 facets about the Lord's Supper.

**I. The Lord's Supper Is a \_\_\_\_\_ Aid.**

**II. The Lord's Supper Is a \_\_\_\_\_ and Witness.**

**III. The Lord's Supper Is for the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Conclusion:** William Barclay says in his book *The Mind of Jesus*:

“The Church, at least in modern times, has made out of the Last Supper not a meal but a symbol of a meal. Can it be that at least in part we have been mistaken as to the intention of Jesus? It remains a very definite possibility that Jesus did not intend to institute a symbolic meal, but that he meant that every time bread was broken and eaten, and every time wine was poured out and drunk – that is, at every meal in every house – he was to be remembered.”

## I Corinthians 11:17-34 ESV

## The Lord's Supper

17 But 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,[a] 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. 23 For 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[b] you. Do this in remembrance of me.”[c] 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. 27 Whoever, 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.[d] 31 But if we judged[e] ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined[f] so that we may not be condemned along with the world. 33 So then, my brothers,[g] when you come together to eat, wait for[h] 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.

### Footnotes:

[a] 1 Corinthians 11:18 Or I believe a certain report

[b] 1 Corinthians 11:24 Some manuscripts broken for

[c] 1 Corinthians 11:24 Or as my memorial; also verse 25

[d] 1 Corinthians 11:30 Greek have fallen asleep (as in 15:6, 20)

[e] 1 Corinthians 11:31 Or discerned

[f] 1 Cor. 11:32 Or when we are judged we are being disciplined by the Lord

[g] 1 Corinthians 11:33 Or brothers and sisters

[h] 1 Corinthians 11:33 Or share with