

Together: Study of 1 Corinthians
“Communion: The Practice That Promotes Our Unity”
1 Corinthians 11:17-34
October 7, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

Communion Invites us to:

1. Look around to make sure our church has relational unity.

¹⁷ In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸ In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.

♦ **Schisma (*skhē'-smä*): Division; gap; split; difference of opinion about a certain topic**

¹⁹ No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval.

♦ **Hairesis (*hī'-re-sēs*): to choose an opinion; a group of people who hold a certain opinion; a sect**

**WE SHOULD HAVE DIVERSITY IN OUR CHURCH,
BUT OUR DIVERSITY SHOULD NOT CREATE DIVISION.**

²⁰ So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹ for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another person gets drunk. ²² Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. ³⁴ Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.
1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 33-34
(see also: John 17:22-23; Matthew 5:23-24)

2. We Look back to Remember what God did.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night 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, after supper he took the

cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

3. We Look forward to Remember Jesus is Coming Again!

²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26
(see also: Matthew 26:29; James 5:7-9)

4. We Look inward to Examine our Hearts to Prevent God's Judgment.

²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink the cup.

♦ **Dokimazō (*do-kē-mä'-zō*): to test; examine, prove; scrutinize; rigorous self-examination**

²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. ³² Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world. 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

Discussion Questions

1. What was your "A-Ha" from Sunday's message? How will this "A-Ha" affect how you live this week?
2. If you could have Pastor Shawn further clarify one thing from Sunday's message what would it be?
3. What are the "4 Looks" communion invites us to take? Paraphrase them in your own words and share them with your group.
4. What is the purpose and significance of the Lord's Supper (v.23-27)? In light of this, why would eating and drinking "without recognizing the body of the Lord" be so dangerous (v.29-31)?
5. According to Paul, how can we eat and drink the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner (v.28-34)? How will you prepare yourself to participate in the Lord's Supper next time we celebrate it in church?