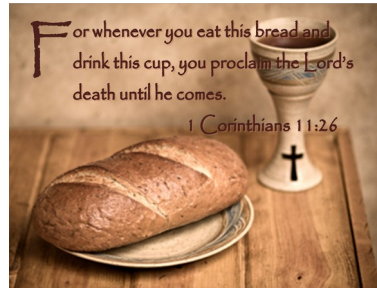


The Lord's Supper

Part 6



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How to Prepare to Receive this Sacrament Worthily?

What sets the Christian Church apart from the world?

IT DISTINGUISHES THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH FROM THE WORLD

(Read: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22)

The question had come up about eating food sacrificed to idols. Paul said that it was all right to eat such food. Idol worship was not involved in that practice (1 Corinthians 8).

However, from what Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 10, some members of the Corinthian congregation were still involved with idol worship.

What did Paul call the Cup that the Corinthians drank in the Lord's Supper?

What does he remind the Corinthians about how they should think about the Cup of Thanksgiving?

The Corinthians were not just drinking wine when they came to the Lord's Supper. They were also drinking the blood Jesus sacrificed for them. As Paul put it, they were participating in the blood of Christ. The same was true in regard to the body.

How does this fact affect our relationship to the world?

Paul used the picture of Jesus breaking bread and distributing it among the disciples. They all ate from it.

What did that do to their relation with one another?

What does eating the body of Christ in the Lord's Supper do to us Christians?

How does this truth guide our decision on who to allow to the Lord's Supper with us?

There is no sitting on the fence.

What does Paul tell us we cannot do at the same time we eat and drink of the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper makes a distinction between the Church and the world.

(Read: 1 Corinthians 11:17-32)

In the early Christian Church, believers would join in the Meal at the end of worship service. It was during that Meal that they would celebrate the Lord's Supper.

What had this Meal had become in the Corinthian churches?

What did this do to their celebration of the Lord's Supper?

How did Paul deal with the errors in the Corinthian Church?

After the Words of Institution, Paul added, "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

How would this statement help correct the problems in Corinth?

Paul continues his warnings in the next verses (the last paragraph of the section we read). In this context, what does it mean to eat and drink the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner?

Paul says when the Corinthians thought of going to the Lord's Supper, they should examine themselves.

What questions should they be asking?

What happens when a person eats and drinks Christ's Body and Blood without understanding or believing Christ's Body and Blood are present?

Does their lack of knowledge or faith change what is truly there?

How should we "judge" ourselves before coming to the Lord's Supper?

How should we "judge" others before we coming to the Lord's Supper?