

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Look Back, Look Within, Look Around**  
**1 Cor 11:17-34**

Last time...“Come out of her, My people”

Come out of the cultures of the world and into the culture of God – Jesus Christ

Be holy, for God is holy,  
Be sanctified, by the Word of God,  
Be separate, from the world and unto the Lord

This time...correction and instruction in righteousness regarding the Lord’s Supper  
We are in 1 Cor 11

v17    not for the better but for the worse:

In the recent flow of this letter, the followers of Jesus Christ

- are in a race and are to run to win
- are to finish well the race
- are run according to the Law of Love

After the instruction in holiness, being separate from the world and unto the Lord,  
in which the Apostle Paul commended them for seeking his spiritual  
guidance (v2),

Paul moves onto their celebration of the Lord’s Supper when they assemble as a  
Church

Gal 3:28

Neither Jew nor Greek  
Neither bond (slaves) or free  
Neither male nor female  
But all one in Christ Jesus

He does not commend them, he is going to correct them

Therefore,

- not for the better
  - not the Law of Love, the Royal Law (James 2:8)
  - not walking in the Spirit
- but for the worse
  - love of Self
  - walking in the flesh

v18-19 For first of all...divisions...heresies:  
first of all...the first serious problem needing correction

divisions among you...

Ch 1:10-13]ff

Ch 3:3

This is the most serious problem because it threatens the unity of the Body of Christ

heresies among you...sects, cliques, groups of men following their own opinions

that they which are approved...issues of divisiveness and worldliness witnessed and reported by those who are walking in unity and the Law of Love

v20-22 is not to eat the Lord's supper:

The divisions, the cliques, and the love of Self lead to real problems when the church gathers corporately to eat the Lord's supper.

In the early Church, the Lord's supper was a family-style potluck fellowship that was actually a feast, an Agape Feast.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Today, it is our Communion celebration  
Then, it was a meal, a feast

Regarding the Lord's supper in the "uttermost parts of the world":

Empire wide, it has been estimated that 20% of the population in the Roman Empire were slaves

In just Italy, it is estimated to be 40% of the population were slaves  
And in Italy and Empire wide, the majority of slaves were women

So the "bond" and "female" folks in the fellowship at Corinth really looked forward to these Agape Feasts, because for most of them it was the only decent meal they got all week

But there is a very serious problem in this spiritually significant gathering in the church at Corinth: what they are doing The Holy Spirit/Paul would not call "the Lord's Supper"

The Lord's supper is being abused and, therefore, are some of the Lord's people

The "Me First and Gimme Gimmes" are making sure they get their share, even more than their share

They are coming to a spiritually significant gathering in a very carnal way, over-eating and over-drinking

They are indulging Self rather than denying Self (Matt 16:24)  
They are loving Self, not each other (the Royal Law)

So some in the church are leaving hungry – the slaves and the poor (have nots)  
are not being served/ministered to by the others (haves)

This is not the mind of Christ!

Eph 4:32a be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted

Phil 2:3 in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than  
themselves

Rom 12:16 *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high  
things, but condescend to men of low estate

John 13:13-15 *Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.  
If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye  
also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you  
an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

John 13:45-35

The “Self-less and Self-last” folks (v19b) have communicated this to the  
Apostle Paul

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul responds.

Are you kidding!

Do you over-eaters not have plenty of food in your own homes?

Do you despise the Church of God by shaming the poor among you...

making them feel unloved, “lesser than”, and unwelcome...

instead of ministering to them to relieve their affliction and living

according to the Law of Love whereby the strong help the weak  
rather than pleasing themselves? (Rom 15:1)

Where is your Christ-likeness –

graciousness, kindness, compassion, and humility?

I commend you not...being Self-first instead of Self-last

The Church at Corinth has lost sight of what the Lord's supper is –  
our ultimate example of the Law of Love

v23-25 received...delivered...in remembrance of Me:

Paul (v1) received instruction from the Lord Himself regarding

Communion/the Lord's Table/the Lord's Supper (Gal 1:11-17)

And Paul was faithful to teaching this church what the Lord had taught him (v2):

The very night He was betrayed

(by a friend, BEFORE the suffering and shame of the Cross),

the Lord Jesus (Who Matt 20:28):

1. took bread

- gave thanks (!!!)

Heb 12:2

Jesus the author and finisher of faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God

- broke the bread

- "Take eat"

John 6:35

I AM the Bread of Life

John 6:53-56

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

- "This is My body" (not literally but metaphorically)
- "which is broken for you" (quite literally! The Law of Love on fullest display)
- "this do in remembrance of Me"

John 13:34-35

1 John 4:7-12, 19-21

2. took the cup

- “This cup is the new testament”

Jer 31:31-33 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people

- “in My blood” (life)

Lev 17:17

The sign of the New Covenant is the Blood of Jesus

- “this do, as oft as you drink” (every time you so celebrate Me)

- “in remembrance of Me” (a somber and very significant spiritual memorial)

How long is the Church to remember the Head of the Church in this way?

v26 ye do shew the Lord’s death till He come:

Every time the Church celebrates the Lord’s Table, She preaches/declares the Lord’s death

1 Cor 15:3-4

Rom 5:8

And the Church is to celebrate the Lord’s Table until...the Lord Jesus Christ comes/returns for Her

John 14:1-3 (after John 13 when He celebrated the “Last Supper”)

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Jesus came to separate a people unto Himself – Jew and Gentile, male and female, bond and free – who believe

- The Father sent Him
- obey His words
- He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God
- He is Adam's Kinsman-Redeemer

He began that work of separation and reconciliation, then returned to the Father  
He continues that work of separation and reconciliation via His Body, the Church  
We remember Him and what He did for us at the Lord's Table...

Until He returns for His people, His Bride

The Lord's Table (Communion) is connected to...the Rapture of the Church

Teaching #1 of the Lord's Supper:

As long as we are here on earth as the witnesses and ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we need to “**Look Back**”

v27-29 shall...unworthily:

Celebrating the Lord's Table as Jesus instructed us is VERY serious

The Church at Corinth is in need of correction about this somber and serious gathering...because they are making a mockery of it now

Therefore, whosoever...a believer

shall...moving forward, continues to, not receiving the correction being given

eat and drink unworthily...not according to the Law of Love (Matt 22:36-39) but according to the love of Self, evidenced by

- gluttony
- drunkenness
- divisiveness

shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord...guilty of the very reason the Lord's body was broken and His blood was shed – sin

but let a man-examine himself... a “refining” moment with the Holy Spirit

Jer 17:9-10

Ps 139:23-24 (as did David, a man after God's own heart)

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting

let him eat and drink...acknowledge his own unworthiness and Jesus' absolute worthiness, giving thanks for His absolute worthiness and unfathomable love for sinners

eat and drink unworthily...love of Self, mindful of only Self and unmindful of v23-25, ungrateful for Jesus' love and "peace offering" for their sins

damnation, not discerning...ingests judgment, despising the Lord's body (suffering and death)

Teaching #2 of the Lord's supper: **Look Within**

v30 many are weak and sickly:

As a result of unworthily celebrating the Lord's Table, many in Corinth

- were weak and sickly...physically and (primarily) spiritually

We are quick and careful to tend to our physical health  
Are we as quick and careful to tend to our spiritual health?  
One home (this earth) is temporary, the other (heaven) is eternal  
Spiritual health is far more important than physical health

- sleep

Spiritual: not doing Rom 13:8-14

Physical: implication of "Moving Day", stubbornly not "giving it their all" in terms of their spiritual health ala Ch 5:5

A clarion call to v28a

v31-32 judge ourselves...we are judged:

If we do v28...examine ourselves and discern the Lord's body in the celebration of the Lord's Supper/Communion

And do not v29...eat and drink unworthily

We will not be judged

Look back, look within...and make corrections of heart, mind, and practice

If we continue in abusing the Lord's Table, we can expect some chastisement from the Lord Himself because the correction needful for one's spiritual health

2 Tim 3:16-17

Heb 12:5-11

Communion is very somber and serious time, not to be trivialized or diluted.  
It is a very serious time of:

1. self-examination
2. self-judgment
3. repentance
4. submission
5. honor

v33-34 tarry one for another:

Receive the correction of the Holy Spirit!

At the Agape Feast, to celebrate the Lord's Table, wait for others  
Don't elbow your way to the front of the line  
Don't pig-out, piling up your plate before others have eaten  
Be considerate of all others...use common consideration  
Be especially mindful of the poor and needy, for the Lord is!  
Rom 15:1  
Serve each other vs serve Self

Use common sense – if you are hungry, tend to your belly at home before  
you gather, so you don't pig-out and dishonor the Lord Who  
denied Himself for you

Gather according to the Royal Law, the Law of Love

Teaching #3 of the Lord's supper: **Look Around**

the rest I will set in order when I come:

v18a

All this was the "first of all"

What is the rest?

What is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>...?

More disorderliness best addressed face-to-face



## Application

The purpose of the Lord's Supper

1. communion
  - participation with Jesus (Head) and each other (Body)
  - a unity
  - a one-ness
  - a spiritual event
2. remembrance
  - of our utter depravity
  - of our abject need
  - of Jesus' overflowing provision to meet our need
  - to focus us on what really matters – the blessed hope of the Church –  
the return of Jesus Christ for Her

The Church at Corinth did not understand the teachings/lessons or had lost sight of the holiness of the Lord's Table as the ultimate reminder of the Law of Love

We must understand and not lose sight of it

Bottom line: The Law of Love

1. Look back...v23-25
2. Look within...v27-29
3. Look around...v33-34

Matt 23:11    **But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.**

Common sense and common consideration are waning in our society but they should never wane in the Church,

- a separate people purchased by the blood of Jesus
- a Body doing as directed by its Head
- followers of Jesus actually following Jesus...Matt 16:24