



1 Corinthians 11:17-34_In Remembrance of Him!

May 18, 2014

Mat 26:26-28 ESV Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." (27) And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, (28) for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Luk 22:19 ESV And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

- First, let me say what a marvelous and important text for Christ's church!
- As many of you know, the Lord's Supper is a celebration of the atoning sacrifice of Christ Jesus!
- Just think about what it represents: God's only begotten son living the perfect, sinless life IN OUR PLACE, then becoming sin for us! Not literal sin, of course. Jesus took our sins upon Himself! He became our substitute, paying the penalty of suffering and death on our behalf, satisfying the righteous wrath of the Father because of our transgression!
- The LORD's Table is designed to help us remember His body and blood, broken and poured out for us!
- The LORD's Table was inaugurated by Christ himself prior to His death!
- The LORD's Table speaks to our LORD's priestly role of atoning for the sins of His people; yet He did what no human priest could ever do...His blood IS our atonement!
- Oh, hallelujah to the Lamb of God! Let's read some Scripture to back up what we just said! ☺

Remembering Him! Remembering What He Alone Did!

- *Exo 12:21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb.*
- *1Co 5:7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.*
- *Isa 53:3-5 ESV He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (4) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. (5) But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.*
- *1Pe 2:22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.*
- *2Co 5:21 ESV For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
- *1Pe 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*
- *Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.*
- *Heb 9:22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.*
- *Heb 9:24-28 ESV For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.*

(25) Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, (26) for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (27) And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, (28) so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Oh that we might have the attitude of Paul when we consider the finished work of our Great God and Savior Jesus...

- *Php 3:7-11 ESV But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. (8) Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (9) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- (10) that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (11) that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

Oh, that we might rejoice in such marvelous grace!

- *Rom 5:1-2 ESV Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (2) Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

A Historical Ordinance

- Like the subject of head coverings previously addressed in this chapter, the LORD's Table is a tradition that has **history** behind it, regardless of Christian denomination.
- From a Protestant point of view, the LORD's Table (and baptism as well) is more an "ordinance" than a "sacrament;" more symbolic of a **inner** transformation than something that produces **actual** transformation.
- Traditionally, the Protestant church has held up communion and baptism as the most important ordinances.
- There are so many quotes from early church fathers and the history of the church that I just picked the earliest non-canonical one I could find. ☺ It comes from the *Didache*, likely written in the early 1st Century:

Now concerning the Eucharist, give thanks this way. First, concerning the cup:

We thank thee, our Father, for the holy vine of David Thy servant, which You madest known to us through Jesus Thy Servant; to Thee be the glory forever...

And concerning the broken bread:

We thank Thee, our Father, for the life and knowledge which You madest known to us through Jesus Thy Servant; to Thee be the glory forever. Even as this broken bread was scattered over the hills, and was gathered together and became one, so let Thy Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Thy kingdom; for Thine is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever...

But let no one eat or drink of your Eucharist, unless they have been baptized into the name of the Lord; for concerning this also the Lord has said, "Give not that which is holy to the dogs."

Instructions in the LORD's Supper

Verse 17

1. Problems again...what a shock! Anybody glad for God's grace? ☺
2. Paul, continuing in **correction** mode, isn't trying to ease in lightly like he did on the topic of head coverings, but rather takes pointed issue with Corinth's mishandling of the Lord's Table.

Verses 18-19

1. When this church gathered for communion, it seems in context that **social** status was in play (vv21-22). Paul was not happy about this; around the Lord's Table, all are **equal!**
2. Sadly, he had no problem believing there was division in this church. As noted previously, they did this before:
 - a. *1Co 1:10-13 ESV I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. (11) For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. (12) What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." (13) Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*
3. Interestingly, the word for "factions" in verse 19 is in Greek, *haireisis*, where we get the word *heresy*. It literally means here, "a party" or "disunion."
4. Even the beauty of the Lord's Table became an issue in this church! It is a shame when something meant to be edifying and **beautiful** becomes a cause for contention in the Lord's church!
5. Nevertheless, by God's grace, disunity often creates opportunity for the "genuine" to demonstrate their faithfulness! What mercy!

Verses 20-22

1. These verses are sad. The purity of the Lord's Table desecrated by human pride and foolishness!
2. So much so, Paul essentially said, whatever you are eating, it isn't the Lord's Supper!
3. The Lord's Table was supposed to be for all, equally. It was supposed to foster reverence and remembrance, not **sin**. It was supposed to cause every believer to uplift our Lord, not feel less than because they didn't have much. It wasn't and isn't a normal meal!
4. This is made all the more horrible when one considers that the early church **likely** ate the Lord's Table weekly (see v20 of our text. Also, *Act 20:7 – "On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight"*)!

Verses 23-26

1. Just reading these verses fills one with a sense of **awe** at the mercy and kindness of Christ!
2. His body, "for us." His blood, the cup of a new covenant...
 - a. *Heb 9:11-15 ESV But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) (12) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal*

redemption. (13) For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, (14) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (15) Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance...

3. There are many views on this ordinance...what the body and blood literally means. We, like most evangelical Protestants, see the bread and cup not as the literal body and blood of Christ, but as **symbols** thereof.
4. We must remember that in partaking of the Lord's Supper, "we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes!" Amen and Hallelujah.

Verses 27-32

1. In context, "unworthy manner" certainly includes the improper, drunken, and class-based meals they were involved in! In other words, in view here are the specific sins of church division and factionism.
2. Many, including myself, see a broader application: each believer should inspect their own hearts for rebellion and sin despite whether our church seems "unified" or not. (v28)
3. "Discerning the body" likely means having an understanding of the ordinance and embracing the repentance and sacrifice required to walk as a follower of Christ. In other words, it is not taken lightly. The symbols must be understood. There should be reverence at the table, repentance of sin, and a unswerving **commitment** to Christ. (v29)
4. To take the Lord's Table lightly is to bring **judgment**. In some cases, people became sick and died. (v30)
5. Therefore, many Christians see the Lord's Table as an opportunity to "judge ourselves" that we might not be judged by the Lord! (v31)
6. However, the Lord's chastening for a believer is still better than what the world will receive! (v32)

Verses 33-34

1. Paul encourages the church to consider one another and maintain the ordinance properly.
2. These final instructions can be said another way, and are needed NOW in every church...

Php 2:3-4 ESV Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Rom 12:10 ESV Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Jas 2:8 ESV If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

May CRCC and every church walk in such love for Christ and one another, proclaiming His death until He comes!

Amen!