

I Corinthians 11:17-34

Things that compromise the Lord's Supper

For more information go to apptoteach.org theology file #813, 803, & Spiritual Formation (Soul Audit).

I Corinthians 11:17-34

“¹⁷ But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part, I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you.”

- ✓ **Uncritical unity is a threat to spiritual communion.**
- ✓ **Not all church meetings are good and not all church conflicts are bad.**

Factions in the church

Unwarranted	Warranted
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Cultural cliques✓ Political parties✓ Social classes✓ Differing gifts, ministries, experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Doctrinal orthodoxy✓ Moral orthodoxy✓ Community standards

I Corinthians 11:17-34

“²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which 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 {He took} the cup also, 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.”

- ✓ **Failure to recognize Christ as our Passover is a threat to spiritual communion.**

I Corinthians 11:17-34

“²⁰ Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, ²¹ for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.”

- ✓ **Individualism is a threat to spiritual communion.**

Areas of disagreement

- ✓ **The Presence of Christ.**
- ✓ **The effect on those who partake.**
- ✓ **The proper administrator.**
- ✓ **The proper recipients.**
- ✓ **The proper elements to be used.**

Frequency of observance

- ✓ Acts 2:46 “And **day by day**, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread”
- ✓ Acts 20:7 “And upon **the first day of the week**, when we were gathered together to break bread”
- ✓ I Cor.11:25 “**as often as you drink it**”



Transubstantiation

The bread and wine become the Body and Blood in a repeated sacrifice for sin.

Consubstantiation (Real Presence)

The Body and Blood are “in, with & under” the bread and wine .

John 6

“⁵² The Jews therefore {began} to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us {His} flesh to eat?” ⁵³ Jesus therefore said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.** ⁵⁴ **He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.** ⁵⁵ **For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.** ⁵⁶ **He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.**”

The Presence of Christ in the elements

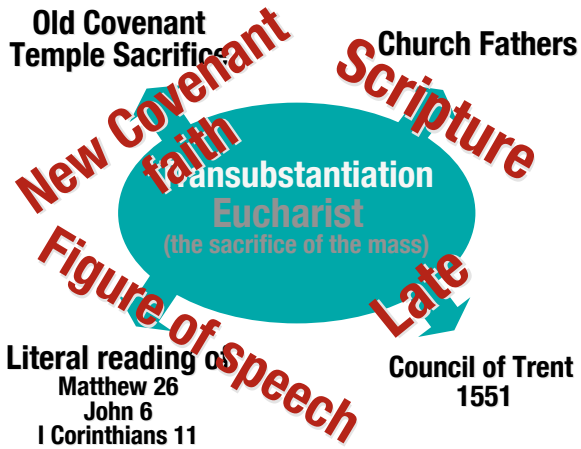
- ✓ The bread and the wine **are** the physical body and blood of Christ.
- ✓ The bread and the wine **contain** the physical body and blood of Christ.
- ✓ The bread and the wine **contain spiritually** the physical body and blood of Christ.
- ✓ The bread and the wine **represent** the physical body and blood of Christ.

John 6

“⁴⁸ “**I am the bread of life.** ⁴⁹ “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and **the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh.**”⁵⁵”

Terms

- ✓ **Eucharist** - from a Greek word meaning “give thanks.”
- ✓ **Mass** - from Latin meaning “it is over.”
- ✓ **Communion** - from the Greek koinonia meaning “fellowship” or “participation.”
- ✓ **Sacrament** - from Latin meaning “sacred practice.” It is associated with a physical “means of grace or blessing.”



John 6

“⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and **believes in Him**, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day. . . . ⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who believes** has eternal life.”

"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."



Passover (memorial)



"Christ our Passover"
I Corinthians 5:7

Jewish Passover

Old Covenant memorial

Looking back at the sacrifice of redemption from Egypt

Looking ahead to the first coming of Messiah

Christian Passover

New Covenant memorial

Looking back at the sacrifice of redemption at the cross

Looking ahead to the second coming of Messiah

I Corinthians 11:17-34

“²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly. ³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.”

Transignification



The bread and wine are symbolic of the Body and Blood

✓ **Unexamined lives are a threat to spiritual communion.**

I Corinthians 11:17-34

“³¹ But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world. ³³ So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you may not come together for judgment. And the remaining matters I shall arrange when I come.”

✓ **Failure to respond to discipline can be a threat to spiritual communion.**

The point of this text

**The Lord’s Table
is a memorial to
the death of Christ
and should be celebrated
in community with those
who understand and
respect its meaning.**

Lessons from this text

- ✓ **The Lord’s Table is a **celebratory meal** that marks a Christian’s identity with a faith community remembering Christ’s death.**
- ✓ **The Lord’s Table can be a **blessing** but also a **curse** if not properly respected.**
- ✓ **Proper respect for the Lord’s Table centers on how we conduct our **relationships** with other believers.**
- ✓ **The Lord’s Table should be open to all who **profess faith in Christ, embrace His church in love, and examine their own lives.****