

## RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER!

### 1 Corinthians 11:22-32

INTRODUCTION: We come to the Communion Service with all different needs and expectations. At times we come with great joy and at other times we come with broken hearts. We have open communion in Baptist Churches: that means you don't have to be a Baptist to receive communion in a Baptist Church. All we ask is that you know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and are in communion with the Lord. We need to beware that our open communion does not become an empty communion.

#### I. HOW SHOULD WE TAKE OUR LORD'S COMMUNION?

Our Scripture today is a warning against coming to Communion in an unworthy manner. The Scriptures I will be reading today are not talking about who is worthy in themselves to take communion and who is unworthy in themselves to take communion. None of us are worthy in ourselves to take communion. It is because we are in Christ and living for His glory that we are worthy. Matthew 11:28-30; Matthew 19:14. The warning Jesus gave about taking communion is not about being worthy people but taking worthy participation in the service. 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

#### II. TAKING OUR LORD'S COMMUNION UNWORTHILY!

When the Bible tells us that it is possible to take the Lord's communion in an unworthy manner it does not leave us guessing what that means: 1 Corinthians 11:29. Recognizing the Lord's body and blood means we realize the bread and the juice we take represent the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that was given for us on the cross. By faith we believe that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is present with us in the symbols of the bread and the fruit of the vine. We don't treat the elements of the service by worshipping them but we do treat them with reverence because of Who they represent. We need to discern the body and the blood of our Lord in the elements of this service. To discern the body of Christ is to realize what this bread represents. To discern the blood of Christ is to discern what this juice represents.

#### III. THE OTHER BODY OF CHRIST!

Now as to the rest of the story: When Paul talks about taking the communion of the Lord in an unworthy manner we know from our text he is talking about discerning the Lord's body as we take the bread: 1 Corinthians 11:29. But do you know Paul talks about another body of Jesus Christ right in this same book? 1 Corinthians 12:26-27. Do you know that you are the body of Christ? Paul had warned the church at Corinth for their improper handling of the Lord's Supper: 1 Corinthians 11:17-22. The Corinthian church was a divided church. They lacked the unity of the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 11:29. So not only not discerning the body of Christ should keep us from taking communion but if we mistreat one another in the local church we are not discerning the Lord's body! We are the body of Christ. We do not come alone to the communion table we come as a family. 1 Corinthians 12:14-18; 1 Corinthians 11:22-32.