

## OUR LORD'S COMMUNION

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

INTRODUCTION: Our Lord's communion or super finds its roots in the Jewish Passover when they sacrificed the Paschal Lamb, shedding its blood and applying it to the door posts and the lintel of their houses. When the death angel saw the blood, he passed over that home and the first-born male of man and animal did not die. John the Baptist said that Jesus is God's Lamb that takes away the sin of the world: John 1:29. Jesus blood applied to our hearts gives us eternal life: Romans 5:8-10. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians rebukes them for turning Jesus Communion into a time of feasting and drunkenness.

### I. THE REASONS FOR THE REBUKE!

The church at Corinth made a mockery of the whole communion remembrance; there was drunkenness, revelry, divisions and debauchery of every sort. There was division in the church: 1 Corinthians 11:17-19; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. There is nothing that will quench God's Spirit quicker in a local church than constant division among the body of that church. Satan loves to stir up division in the church of Jesus Christ: Proverbs 6:16-19; 1 Corinthians 11:19. The word "heresy" here does not mean false doctrine, it means disunity. The apostle Paul had already talked about that problem earlier in the book: 1 Corinthians 1:10-11. There was also partiality in the church at Corinth: 1 Corinthians 11:20-21; 1 Corinthians 11:33. This reminds us of the error of the priest in the Old Testament: Isaiah 28:7-8.

### II. THE REASON FOR OUR REMEMBRANCE!

1 Corinthians 11:23-24. Jesus death on the cross fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies: John 19:36-37; Isaiah 53:5-6. When we drink the juice, it represents the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ shed on the cross to make atonement for our sin: Hebrews 9:22. In the New Testament there are 1,300 verses that speak of the atonement through the blood of Jesus Christ. If you remove the blood of Jesus Christ from the gospel you have no gospel. The blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross paid the debt of our sin: Romans 6:23. Each time we take part in the communion service we are showing forth our Lord Jesus' sacrificial death for our sins: 1 Corinthians 11:26; Hebrews 9:27-28.

### III. THE REASON FOR PAUL'S REPRIMAND!

1 Corinthians 11:27-32: The church at Corinth did no self-examination before taking the Lord's communion. Jesus was not at all in their thoughts as they took part in the Lord's communion: 1 Corinthians 11:29; Hebrews 10:29-31. Because they had profaned the Lord's communion table, God had made many of them sick and He had killed some of them. When we come to our Lord's communion table we must be sure we have no unconfessed sin: 1 Corinthians 11:28; Psalm 139:23-24. When we confess our sin to our God He restores the joy of our salvation: Psalm 55:12-13. When we remove differences among us we restore fellowship: James 5:16. When we remove our pride God restores to us humility: 1 Peter 5:6. Holy communion is a privilege for believers and we should take it seriously remembering that it symbolizes the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice for our redemption. 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.

