

I Corinthians 11:17-22

Offences at the Lord's Supper

Introduction:

When we think of offences, the Corinthian's were guilty of so many of them. From the very beginning in **Chapter 1**, there were quarrels among them as to who was the better preacher. In **Chapter 3**, Paul desires to feed them the depth of God's Word but they were incapable to receiving it. In **Chapter 4**, Paul addresses their pride concerning their gifts, some felt superior to others when all their gifts were by the grace of God. In **Chapter 5**, Paul sends a strong rebuke when they allowed an incestuous man to remain in the fellowship without discipline. In **Chapter 6**, some of the Corinthians were guilty of suing one another using the secular courts. In **Chapter 7**, there existed misbehavior in marital responsibilities. In **Chapter 8**, there was the offence to the weaker brother when eating meat sacrificed to idols. In **Chapter 9**, was the neglect of supporting preachers of the gospel. In **Chapter 10**, there was the illegitimate grumbling of leadership and in **Chapter 11**; perhaps worst of all were the inappropriate of segregated meals and drunkenness at the love feasts.

I. Divisions in the Church

A. The absence of dignity and edification – 14:40

1. Authoritative instruction – v.17
2. Worship service abuses

B. List of Offences:

1. Divisions among them – v.18 “schismata” (splits) cf. 1:10
Lack of peace – John 14:27
2. Factions – Gk. haireisis

C. Closed communion – “approved,” by God standing the test

1. The history of the Reformed Churches
2. Rejecting a factious man – Titus 3:10-11

D. Love feast without love – v.20-21 (Jude 12; II Pet. 2:13) cf. 10:21,22

II. Travesty of Love in the Church

A. The early church – Acts 2:46

1. The practice of sharing food the hallmark of the Christian Church
2. Selfishness

B. Cliques

1. The rich ate their elaborate meals together
2. The poor were hungry

C. Rhetorical Questions – v.22

1. The poor, rich in faith – Jam. 2:5; 1:10
2. Turn to: I Corinthians 12:14-27
3. More hard hitting questions v.22b.

Conclusion:

1. *If you are not a Christian, you need to become one in order to enter the body of Christ and enter the Kingdom of God. As you can see Christians are not sinless, that's why they need a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*
2. *Dear Christian we must learn from the sins of the Corinthians. Never put ourselves into cliques. Our fellowship must be with the whole body of Christ. John 15:12,13*

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