

Standalone Sermon / 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

"Reflections on the Lord's Supper" | November 2nd, 2025

Review:

The sermon explored the profound significance of communion as outlined in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, challenging us to approach the Lord's Table with proper reverence and preparation. We examined why the Lord's Supper stands as one of only two biblical ordinances given to the church, and how this sacred meal calls us to look backward at Christ's atoning death, forward to His glorious return, inward through self-examination, and outward in reconciliation with others. The implications for our spiritual life are clear: communion is not merely a ritual to observe, but an act of worship that requires intentional preparation and genuine heart transformation.

There's something profoundly powerful about gathering around a table. Throughout human history, meals have marked our most significant moments—celebrations, reconciliations, farewells, and new beginnings. But among all the meals shared throughout time, one stands apart in its eternal significance: the Lord's Supper. This sacred ordinance, given to the church by Christ Himself, is far more than a religious ritual or a weekly routine. It's a holy act of worship that calls us to remember, reflect, and respond to the greatest act of love the world has ever known.

Sermon Outline:

I. Deal with Dilemmas (vs. 17-22)

- A. Resolve any issues among the flock
- B. Subdue any selfish ambitions

II. Prioritize the Purpose (vs. 23-26)

- A. Remember the Lord's Death
- B. Proclaim His Return

III. Prepare Before We Partake (vs. 27-34)

- A. Look inward through self-examination
- B. Look outward through reconciliation

Key Takeaways:

- Deal with dilemmas before coming to the table by resolving conflicts within the body and subduing selfish ambitions that create division among believers.
- Prioritize the purpose of communion by remembering the Lord's death and proclaiming His return, allowing both somber reflection and joyful anticipation to mark our observance.
- Prepare before we partake through honest self-examination and confession, recognizing that eating in an unworthy manner dishonors the body and blood of Christ.

Practical Applications: What This Means For You

Worship is All of Life - "*Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Worship extends beyond Sunday gatherings into every aspect of daily life.

Reconciliation Action: If the Holy Spirit brings someone to mind with whom you have unresolved conflict, reach out this week to pursue peace and reconciliation.

Daily Examination: Set aside 10 minutes each day this week for self-examination and confession. Use Psalm 139:23-24 as a prayer guide.

Study the Cross: Read one Gospel account of Jesus' crucifixion each day (Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19). Journal about what you learn and how it deepens your appreciation for communion.

Worship Inventory: Audit your daily activities. How can you do ordinary tasks (work, parenting, relationships) as worship to God? Identify three specific ways to live out 1 Corinthians 10:31.

Prepare Intentionally: Before your next communion service, spend extended time in prayer, confession, and Scripture reading. Come prepared rather than casual.

For Further Study:

~ Read the other Gospel accounts of the Last Supper: Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-23

~ Study 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 for additional context on communion.

~ Research the Passover meal to understand the Jewish context of the Last Supper.

~ Read John Piper's article "What is Worship?" for deeper understanding of worship as a lifestyle.

Prayer Focus:

Pray this week, focusing on: **a)** Gratitude for Christ's sacrifice, **b)** Confession of areas revealed through self-examination, **c)** Unity within the church body, **d)** Anticipation of Christ's return, **e)** A desire to live all of life as worship

Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 11:26 - "*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*"