

## THE LORD'S SUPPER, A CHALLENGE

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** The Lord's Supper can be more than a rich, spiritual experience we partake in from time to time, but beneath the beauty and reverence of it, there are some challenges. We can never experience the real peace and closeness to God that can happen until we are willing to allow the challenges of the Lord's Supper to change us into what we need to be.

### I. THERE IS THE CHALLENGE TO SEE YOURSELF AS YOU REALLY ARE

1. None of us are the fine, upright person whom we think we are. Just who is responsible for the broken body and shed blood of Jesus? The mean, cruel, horrible people or people like us?
  - "...*there is none righteous, no, not one...*" (*Romans 3:10*) Even at our best, we are nothing and our very best is as filthy rags.
  - "...*Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures...*" (*1 Corinthians 15:3*) "...*the wages of sin is death...*" Our sins must be paid for either by our death or by the death of Jesus.
  - Face it! Every one of us is totally dependent upon God's grace and a challenge of the Lord's Supper is to see yourself as you really are - a depraved sinner, guilty and cause of the death of Jesus Christ and we are utterly dependent upon God's grace.

### II. THERE IS THE CHALLENGE TO LIVE UP TO WHAT WE PROFESS

1. The Lord's Supper reminds us that we must live in such a way that we show evidence of really having been cleansed by the broken body and the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - We say that we are Christians - well then, live up to it!

### III. THERE IS THE CHALLENGE TO REMEMBER THE THEME OF OUR FAITH

1. "...*For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come...*" (*1 Corinthians 11:26*)
  - There is no new message for our time, generation, for everybody is still the same as preceding generations - lost sinners and the only way of salvation is through Jesus Christ.

### IV. THERE IS THE CHALLENGE TO PARTAKE IN THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

1. "...*Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord...*" (*1 Corinthians 11:27*)
  - "Unworthily" is the opposite of "worthy."
  - None of us are worthy to partake of the Lord's Supper
  - There is a worthy "manner" however in which the "unworthy" can partake.
    - The right manner recognizes the wrong one has committed.
    - We should be willing to confess our sins, knowing that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.

- Having the right attitude enables us to forgive our offenders.
  - *"..But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses..." (Mark 11:26)*
  - Failure to forgive makes a mockery of the Lord's Supper.

## V. THERE IS THE CHALLENGE TO MAKE A SELF-EXAMINATION

1. *"...But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup..." (1 Corinthians 11:28)*
  - Examining yourself will avoid divine judgment.
    - *"...For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged..." (1 Corinthians 11:31)*
  - Examining yourself will lead to a better understanding of any present trials.
    - *"...But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world..." (1 Corinthians 11:32)*

## CONCLUSION:

1. The Lord Jesus left His Supper for His followers for the purpose of reminding them of what He was about to go through and since that time, it has served as a reminder to every Christian what Jesus went through in order for them to have eternal life.
2. The Lord's Supper is not just a different kind of service done every quarter or every now and then. It is one of the two visible things the Lord left for His followers to do but to do in all reverence and remembrance.
3. The right attitude is essential in participating in the Lord's Supper and to have the right attitude, a person needs to take some time to reflect upon his/her life and see if there's anything there that is wrong, that needs to be straightened out, that needs to be brought to the Lord and have forgiven.
4. The Lord's Supper is a time of challenge to the partaker as well as a reminder. Therefore partake of the Lord's Supper in the proper manner or do not partake of it at all.