

WHO IS WORTHY?

1 Cor. 11:20-34 **Text: 1Cor. 11:27-29**

Introduction: Who is worthy and who is not worthy to receive or partake in the Lord's Supper?

- **Every true believer is worthy of receiving and is obliged to receive the Lord's Supper.**
- Who, then is unworthy? Let us examine the scriptures:

I. 1 Cor. 11:20:

- There was a **specific place** where the Corinthian Church assembled for public worship.
- When the Corinthian Church came together, at the appointed time, they **claimed** that they did so "to eat the Lord's supper."
- If we do not observe the ordinances of Divine worship in the manner prescribed by God, we are not to observe them at all.
 - The Corinthian Church came to throw a party.
- We have come together tonight to observe the Lord's Supper, not to throw a party. It is called the Lord's Supper because:
 - Christ the Lord is the Author of it - He's the Subject of it - He's the Host of it - He's the Reason for it.

II. 1 Cor. 11:21:

- What the Corinthian Church had done was not an act of worship. They came not to worship but to feast, not to serve one another, but each to eat his own supper. Their feast was a rude, cruel, self-serving, self-gratifying party.
- They jumped in front of one another - the poor left hungry - they gorged themselves with food and drink to the point of drunkenness.

III. 1 Cor. 11:22:

- This is not a prohibition to eating or eating in the church buildings. Paul was shaming the Corinthians for behaving as they did, while pretending to worship Christ.

IV. 1 Cor. 11:23-26:

- Christ blessed the bread and cup. He did nothing mysterious or changed them. He simply gave thanks for them.
 - We are to observe the Lord's Supper the same way they did it on that last night.
 - We are to use the same elements: unleavened bread and fruit of the grape vine.
 - The bread represents the body of Christ.
 - The fruit of the grape vine represents the blood of Christ, given for our sins.
 - We are to observe this ordinance often.
 - As often as we do, we are to do so in remembrance of our Lord and Savior.
 - The Lord's Supper is a beautiful symbol of the Lord's death.

V. 1 Cor. 11:27:

- If we use the wrong elements, not have the proper reverence, fail to remember what Christ did for us, do not clearly understand the meaning of the Lord's Supper, to do so is to do so unworthy.

- Everyone who partakes of the Lord's Supper is a sinner, has not prayed right, or read the Bible enough, or lived as he/she should.
- None of these things are what the scripture means.
- No true believer can become damned again.

VI. 1 Cor. 11:28:

- We are to examine our own individual selves. Not someone else.
- **Once we know that we are in the faith, that Christ is in us and we are in Christ, because we trust Christ alone, then we are told to partake.**
- For believers, the Lord's Supper is not optional. It is a matter of obedience.

VII. 1 Cor. 11:29:

- Those who partake unworthy are the religious, but lost.
 - They know church doctrine and policy backwards and forwards, but do not know God.
 - They are smart about many things, but have no spiritual discernment.
 - They profess to have faith, but do not actually possess faith.
 - **They do not understand the things of God.**
 - Their sin and separation from God - God's law and justice - the necessity of Christ's death - the gospel of Grace.
 - **The presumption of being redeemed, righteous, regenerated, and having accepted Jesus without actually being so or doing so, is damning.**

VIII. 1 Cor. 11:30:

- They claimed to be worshipping God, but were not. They were worshipping themselves.
- They claimed to have trusted Christ, but they had not. They trusted their own works.

IX. 1 Cor. 11:31:

- If the believer will sit in judgment with God against him/herself, then the believer will not be judged or condemned by God.
- **1 John 1:7-10**

X. 1 Cor. 11:32:

- When God deals with the believer, it is not as an angry judge, but as a loving heavenly Father.

XI. 1 Cor. 11:33-34:

- Believers are to come together to eat the Lord's Supper, and always be thoughtful of the others there.
- When believers come together to eat the Lord's Supper, they are not to mingle or interject into that worship time anything that is carnal or which God has not ordained.

THEREFORE: Let us examine ourselves - remember Christ (His person, His obedience, His sacrifice, The work of His blood) and to love one another.