

First Corinthians 11:17-22

Introduction: Note the uses of “come together” (11:17-18, 20, 33-34) and the phrase “in the same place” (11:20). This is referring to, without question, a public gathering of the congregation. God criticizes their distortion of the Lord’s Supper (11:17-22), teaches them the correct way to observe it (11:23-26), and then concludes with practical ways to set things right (11:27-34).

- 1) Disapproval—11:17 ¹⁷ *Now in giving the following (authoritative) instructions [paraggello], I do not compliment of you^{pl}, (cf. 11:2)*
 - a) Why? *because you^{pl} come together not for the better but for the worse.*
- 2) Clarification—11:18-19 ¹⁸ *For first of all, when you^{pl} come together as a congregation,*
 - a) Ungodly division—*I hear (cf. 1:11; 5:1; 16:17) that schisms [schisma] (cf. 1:10; 12:25) exist among you^{pl},*
 - i) *and in part I believe it.*
 - b) Godly division—¹⁹ *For there must also be factions [haireisis] among you^{pl},*
 - i) Why? *so that those who are approved [dokimos] (cf. 9:27; 11:28) may become recognized among you^{pl}.*
 - (1) People who consistently make wise choices in agreement with Scripture will eventually become obvious. Those who consistently do not make such Biblical choices will also eventually become obvious.
- 3) Correction—11:20-21 ²⁰ *Therefore, when you^{pl} come together in one place (cf. 14:23), it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper. (Their selfishness contradicts the selflessness of Christ.)*
 - How do we know this?
 - a) They were all self-absorbed—²¹ *For in eating each one takes his own supper first;*
 - i) Cf. 11:33
 - b) Some were being deprived—*and on the one hand one is hungry,*
 - c) Some were over-indulging—*and on the other hand one gets drunk.*
- 4) Disapproval—11:22 ²² *What!*
 - a) Questions
 - i) Have your dinner party at home—*Do you^{pl} not have houses to eat and drink in?*
 - ii) Don’t forget the unity God produces—*Or do you^{pl} show contempt for [kataphroneo] the congregation of God, and embarrass those who have nothing?*
 - iii) Paul is at a loss for words—*What shall I say to you^{pl}?*
 - iv) Think about it. Very. Carefully.—*Shall I compliment you^{pl} in this?*
 - b) Statement
 - i) *I will not give a compliment.*

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- “Churches today must create such a loving fellowship as a display of the power of Christianity amidst the divisive and fragmenting tendencies of ... [our] lonely culture.” (Vaughan, p. 120)
 - These instructions are not given to the pastors but rather to the congregation as a whole. It is the body’s responsibility, under the pastor’s leadership, to make sure the Lord’s Supper is observed Biblically.