

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 <sup>17</sup> *Now in giving the following (authoritative) instructions [paraggello], I do not compliment of you<sup>pl</sup>, (cf. 11:2)*
  - a) Why? *because you<sup>pl</sup> come together not for the better but for the worse.*
- 2) Clarification—11:18-19 <sup>18</sup> *For first of all, when you<sup>pl</sup> 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<sup>pl</sup>,*
    - i) *and in part I believe it.*
  - b) Godly division—<sup>19</sup> *For there must also be factions [haireisis] among you<sup>pl</sup>,*
    - i) Why? *so that those who are approved [dokimos] (cf. 9:27; 11:28) may become recognized among you<sup>pl</sup>.*
      - (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 <sup>20</sup> *Therefore, when you<sup>pl</sup> 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—<sup>21</sup> *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 <sup>22</sup> *What!*
  - a) Questions
    - i) Have your dinner party at home—*Do you<sup>pl</sup> not have houses to eat and drink in?*
    - ii) Don’t forget the unity God produces—*Or do you<sup>pl</sup> 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<sup>pl</sup>?*
    - iv) Think about it. Very. Carefully.—*Shall I compliment you<sup>pl</sup> in this?*
  - b) Statement
    - i) *I will not give a compliment.*

- 
- “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.