

First Corinthians 11:27-34
Practical ways to set things right concerning the Lord's Supper

The reminder of the reality of guilt—11:27

- 1) ²⁷ *For this reason, whoever eats this bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in a dishonoring manner [anaxios] will be guilty [enochos] of the body and the blood of the Lord.*
 - a) Participating in the Lord's supper while being in sin during the very act of remembering His sacrifice for sin.
 - b) Christians may have guilt (liability for God's paternal discipline) before God due to sins committed after their salvation. This in no way contradicts Romans 8:1 which addresses liability for God's judicial condemnation.

The necessity of self-examination—11:28-32

- 1) A pair of commands—11:28-29 ²⁸ *But a person should examine [dokimazo] himself and in this way (of self-examination) he should eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*
 - This examination pertains to our attitude at the Table, but more specifically our attitude and behavior toward other believers who are at the Table with us. Beware the dangers of self-ward introspection during the Lord's Supper.
 - a) Why should I participate carefully? ²⁹ *For the one who eats and drinks in a dishonoring manner [anaxios], while not discerning [diakrino] the Lord's body, eats and drinks judgment [krima] (not eternal condemnation) to himself.*
 - i) Cf. Hebrews 6:7-11
- 2) What if we don't participate carefully?—11:30-32
 - a) Self-focus is harmful—³⁰ *For this reason many among you^{pl} are weak and ill, and a considerable number of you^{pl} have died.*
 - b) Good habits are beneficial—³¹ *For if (2nd class condition, assumed untrue for the sake of argument) we were examining [diakrino] ourselves (and we do not), we would not be judged [krino].*
 - c) Discipline is paternal and remedial, not judicial and punitive—³² *But when we are judged [krino], we are disciplined [paideuo] by the Lord so that we may not be condemned [katakrino] with the world.*

Practical application—11:33-34

- 1) "But I'm hungry!"—11:33-34a ³³ *For this reason, my brothers, when you^{pl} come together (as a congregation) to eat, wait for one another.*
 - a) ³⁴ *But if (1st class condition, assumed true for the sake of argument) anyone is hungry, he should eat at home,*
 - i) Why? *so that you^{pl} do not come together for judgment [krima].*
 - b) Make sure all the food is distributed properly to everyone before you begin to eat.
- 2) There's more!—11:34b *Now the remaining things I will set in order [diatasso] when I come.*

How can I know if I am participating in the Lord's Supper worthily?

- 1) Am I carefully examining my relationship with other congregational members?
 - 2) Am I indifferent toward other congregational members?
- Am I recognizing the spiritual significance of the elements of the Lord's Supper?