

The Lord's Supper

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 11:17-24.
- B. The main thing is what the Person and work of Christ means to a person.
- C. The early church gathered for a meal, but divisions among them were spoiling it.

II. It is healthy to have differences in the church.

- A. It allows people to become mature.
- B. No one had answered the divisions in the church at Corinth though resulting in something negative.

III. Paul suggests that if the believers are only coming together to eat and drink, they might as well stay home.

- A. When they come together, they ought to be concerned about the needs of others.
- B. The indifference of the church was hurting the cause of Christ instead of helping it.

IV. What Paul had taught them about the Lord's Supper.

- A. Jesus Himself told Paul of what happened in the Upper Room.
- B. The body of Christ is intended for the believer to live on. Jesus' life in the believer empowers him to be what Jesus asks Him to be. (John 6)
- C. The blood reflects the death of the old self that the believer must undergo.
 - 1. The power of God only comes when we surrender the power of man.
 - 2. The old life dies in order that the new life might live.

V. God guards the table of the Lord from unworthy partaking.

- A. A proper participation requires an appropriate participation.
- B. Examining oneself does not mean that perfection is demanded. Instead, one is to call sin what it is and repent of it. (Psalm 51)
- C. The body must be discerned.
 - 1. The symbols are to be reflected upon.

2. The ties in the body of Christ are to be recognized.

D. God guards this using physical judgment.

1. Pain makes us think about our state.

2. God always gives a chance to change.

3. God's love puts up barriers in our lives.

4. God's purpose in judgment is to encourage a change in action.

Application questions:

1. What does the Lord's Supper symbolize?

2. How would you respond to a believer who suggests that they cannot take the Lord's Supper because they told a lie that week?

3. Does God judge believers? Explain.
