

Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

The Lord's Supper
A Table of Blessing, Not Abuse

by Eric Douma
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The Richness of the Table

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is **My body, which is for you**; do this in **remembrance of Me.**" 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of Me.**" 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

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The Abused Warnings

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28 But **a man must examine himself**, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself **if he does not judge the body rightly.**

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Examination of the Heart?

Biblical examination is objective:

2 Corinthians 13:5

Test yourselves to see if you are in **the faith**; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

Galatians 6:4

But each one must examine **his own work**, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.

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Judging the Body Rightly

1 Corinthians 11:29

For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself **if he does not judge the body rightly**.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? 17 Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

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Proof That the "Body" Is the Church

1 Corinthians 11:18-22

For, in the first place, **when you come together as a church**, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. 20 Therefore **when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper**. 21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or **do you despise the church of God** and shame those who have nothing?

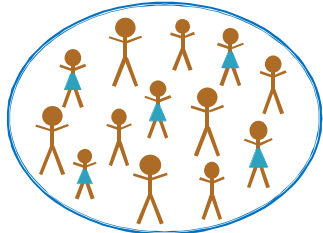
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Christ's Body Must Be Complete!

The Body of Christ



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Judging the Body Rightly

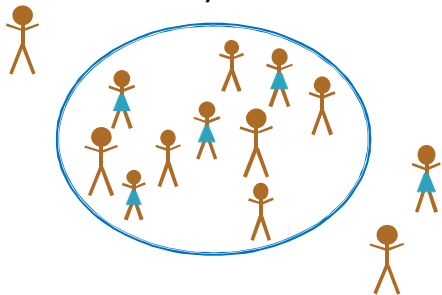
1 Cor. 11:28-29 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

1 Cor. 11:30-34 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. **31** But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. **32** But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. **33** So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. **34** If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

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Examining Oneself Is to Rightly Discern the Body!

The Body of Christ



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The Purpose of the Lord's Supper

Exodus 12:23-27 = Remember the Passover

1 Cor. 11:23-26 = Remember the Lord's death...

Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

~ If a person is not too sinful to hear the apostle's teaching, he or she is not too sinful to partake in the Lord's Supper!

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Church Discipline: Exclusion From the Table

1 Corinthians 5:9-11

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

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Who Is Invited?

The very Table that is God's reminder, and therefore his repeated gift, of grace, the Table where we affirm again who and whose we are, has been allowed to become a table of condemnation for the very people who most truly need the assurance of acceptance that this table affords—the sinful, the weak, the weary. One does not have to "get rid of the sin in one's life" in order to partake. Here by faith one may once again receive the assurance that "Christ receiveth sinners" (Gordon Fee).

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