CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

1 Corinthians Chapter 11 — Headship, Worship, and the Lord’s Supper

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

1 Corinthians Chapter 11 turns to how the church behaved when it gathered for worship.

For three chapters, Paul has been answering questions about food offered to idols.

He ended Chapter 10 with the call to do everything for the glory of God and the good of others.

He begins Chapter 11 with a call to follow his example as he follows Christ.

Then Paul deals with two problems in the church's worship.

The first was about **how men and women presented themselves** when they prayed and prophesied in public worship.

In Corinth's culture, a woman's head covering was a sign of modesty and honor, especially for a married woman.

Some women in the church seem to have set aside the covering.

Perhaps they thought that in Christ such customs no longer mattered.

Paul teaches that God has built an order into creation.

Christ is the head of every man.

The man is the head of the woman.

God is the head of Christ.

And how believers present themselves in worship should honor that order.

But Paul is also careful to say that in the Lord, men and women depend on each other.

Neither is independent.

All things come from God.

The second problem was far more serious.

It was at **the Lord's Supper.**

In the early church, believers often shared a full meal together along with the bread and the cup.

In Corinth, this meal had become a scene of division.

The wealthy came early and ate their fill.

Some even got drunk.

The poor, who often had to work late, arrived to find nothing left.

They went home hungry and humiliated.

Paul is shocked.

“In this I do not praise you.”

He reminds them of what the Lord's Supper really is.

He repeats the words Jesus spoke on the night He was betrayed.

This bread is His body, given for us.

This cup is the new covenant in His blood.

Every time we eat it, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

So no one should come to it carelessly.

Each person must examine himself.

Because the Lord takes His table seriously.

The chapter moves through five movements:

- Following Christ's Example (verses 1–2).
- Order in Headship (verses 3–16).
- Abuses at the Lord's Supper (verses 17–22).
- Institution of the Lord's Supper (verses 23–26).
- Self-Examination Required (verses 27–34).

The central truth of 1 Corinthians 11 is:

Worship must honor God's design and reflect the self-giving love of Christ, so believers must come to the Lord's Supper with reverence, self-examination, and love for one another, proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes.

I. IMITATORS OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:1 — “Be Imitators of Me”

“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

This verse most likely belongs with the end of Chapter 10.

Paul has just said that he seeks the good of others, not his own good, so that they may be saved.

Now he says:

“Be imitators of me.”

But notice the important condition:

“Just as I also am of Christ.”

Paul was not asking people to follow him blindly.

He was asking them to follow him as he followed Jesus.

Jesus is the true pattern.

Paul was a living example of what following Jesus looks like.

Every believer needs examples.

And every believer should be an example to others.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 4:16

> So I urge you to follow my example.

Philippians 3:17

> Brothers and sisters, join together in following my example. Pay attention to those who live the way we showed you.

Ephesians 5:1

> So be imitators of God, as dearly loved children,

Spiritual Principle

We should follow godly people only as far as they follow Christ.

Application

Who are you imitating?

Who might be imitating you?

II. HOLDING TO THE TRADITIONS

1 Corinthians 11:2 — “I Praise You”

“Now I praise you, brothers and sisters, because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.”

After many chapters of correction, Paul gives praise.

“I praise you.”

The Corinthians did some things right.

They remembered Paul.

And they held firmly to **“the traditions.”**

In the Bible, this word does not mean human customs.

It means the teachings Paul **delivered**—the truths about Christ and the gospel that he received from the Lord and passed on to them.

Paul is about to correct them in two areas.

But first he encourages them where he can.

Cross References

2 Thessalonians 2:15

> So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold on to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

> Brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we command you to stay away from any believer who lives a lazy life and does not follow the teaching you received from us.

Jude 1:3

> Dear friends, I was eager to write to you about the salvation we share. But I felt I had to write and urge you to fight hard for the faith that God handed down to His holy people once and for all.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful believers hold firmly to the teaching of the apostles.

Key Truth

Good leaders encourage before they correct.

III. CHRIST, MAN, WOMAN, AND GOD

1 Corinthians 11:3 — The Order of Headship

“But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God.”

Paul now begins his first correction.

He starts with a principle.

“The head of every man is Christ.”

“The head of the woman is the man.”

“The head of Christ is God.”

What does **head** mean here?

Bible students have understood it in different ways.

Many believe it means **authority**—the one who leads.

Others believe it means **source**—the one from whom another comes.

Both ideas may be present.

Notice the last line very carefully.

“The head of Christ is God.”

Christ is fully God and equal with the Father.

Yet in His work as Savior, the Son willingly honors and obeys the Father.

This shows that headship does not mean one person is worth more than another.

The Father and the Son are equal in worth, yet there is order in how they relate.

In the same way, Paul teaches that men and women are equal in worth before God, yet God has given an order to their relationship.

Cross References

Ephesians 5:23

> For the husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church—His body, of which He is the Savior.

Ephesians 1:22

> God placed everything under His feet and made Him head over everything for the good of the church,

John 14:28

> You heard Me say, “I am going away, and I am coming back to you.” If you loved Me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.

Spiritual Principle

God's order is not about worth but about relationship.

Key Truth

If headship can exist between the Father and the Son without any difference in worth, it does not make anyone less valuable.

IV. A MAN WITH HIS HEAD COVERED

1 Corinthians 11:4 — Dishonoring His Head

“Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head.”

Paul speaks first to men.

When a man **prays or prophesies** in public worship, he should not cover his head.

If he does, he **“dishonors his head.”**

The word **head** may have a double meaning here.

He dishonors his own physical head.

And he dishonors his spiritual Head, who is Christ.

In the Roman world, men often covered their heads when leading pagan worship.

Paul may have wanted Christian men to stand apart from that practice.

A man was to stand before God openly, showing that he honored Christ as his head.

Cross References

Exodus 28:40

> Make tunics, sashes, and headbands for Aaron's sons, to give them honor and beauty.

1 Timothy 2:8

> So I want men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or arguing.

2 Corinthians 3:18

> And all of us, with unveiled faces, see the Lord's glory as if in a mirror, and we are being changed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Spiritual Principle

How we come before God in worship matters to God.

V. A WOMAN WITH HER HEAD UNCOVERED

1 Corinthians 11:5 — As If Her Head Were Shaved

“But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as if her head were shaved.”

Now Paul speaks to women.

First, notice something very important.

Paul assumes that women **pray and prophesy** in public worship.

He does not forbid it.

He gives instructions for how it should be done.

Women had a real and active part in the worship of the early church.

Paul says a woman who prays or prophesies **“with her head uncovered dishonors her head.”**

In Corinth's culture, a respectable woman, especially a married woman, covered her head in public.

To remove it was seen as shameful.

Paul compares it to having her head shaved.

In that world, a shaved head on a woman was a sign of disgrace.

By refusing the covering, a woman would be bringing shame on her husband and on herself.

Cross References

Numbers 5:18

> The priest will have the woman stand before the LORD, loosen her hair, and put the grain offering of remembrance in her hands.

Deuteronomy 21:12

> Bring her into your home. She must shave her head and trim her nails.

1 Peter 3:3

> Your beauty should not come from outward things, like fancy hairstyles, gold jewelry, or fine clothes.

Spiritual Principle

Women have an honored and active place in the worship of the church.

Key Truth

Paul's concern was not to silence women, but to see that worship honored God and one another.

VI. LET HER BE COVERED

1 Corinthians 11:6 — Shorn or Shaved

“For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered.”

Paul makes his point with a strong argument.

If a woman will not cover her head, then she might as well cut off her hair.

But everyone in that culture agreed that a woman with a shaved head was disgraced.

So the conclusion is simple:

“Let her be covered.”

Paul is appealing to what the Corinthians themselves recognized as honorable and shameful.

He wanted the women of the church to avoid bringing shame on themselves or their families in worship.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 21:12

> Bring her into your home. She must shave her head and trim her nails.

Numbers 5:18

> The priest will have the woman stand before the LORD, loosen her hair, and put the grain offering of remembrance in her hands.

1 Corinthians 11:5

> But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head. It is just like having her head shaved.

Spiritual Principle

Christian freedom must not be used in ways that bring shame on others or on the gospel.

VII. THE IMAGE AND GLORY OF GOD

1 Corinthians 11:7 — The Glory of Man

“For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.”

Paul now points back to creation.

“He is the image and glory of God.”

Man was created in God's image.

Genesis also says that woman was created in God's image.

Paul is not denying that.

He is focusing on the order of creation in Genesis 2.

“But woman is the glory of man.”

The word **glory** here means something that brings honor.

Just as man brings honor to God, woman brings honor to man.

When Adam first saw Eve, he rejoiced.

She was the crown of creation, the one who completed him.

Paul is not saying woman is less valuable.

He is saying she is the one in whom man finds his honor and joy.

Cross References

Genesis 1:27

> So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.

Genesis 2:18

> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him.”

Genesis 5:1

> This is the written record of Adam's family line. When God created human beings, He made them in His own likeness.

Spiritual Principle

Men and women both bear God's image and bring Him glory.

Key Truth

Genesis 1:27 makes it clear: male and female are both made in the image of God.

VIII. WOMAN FROM MAN

1 Corinthians 11:8 — The Order of Creation

“For man is not from woman, but woman from man.”

Paul continues with Genesis 2.

God formed Adam first.

Then He made Eve from Adam's side.

“Woman from man.”

This is the order in which God created them.

Paul points to this order as part of God's design.

It is not a cultural idea.

It goes back to the beginning.

Cross References

Genesis 2:21

> So the LORD God made the man fall into a deep sleep. While he slept, God took one of his ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

Genesis 2:22

> Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken from the man, and He brought her to the man.

Genesis 2:23

> The man said, “At last! This is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh. She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from man.”

Spiritual Principle

God's design for men and women goes back to creation itself.

IX. WOMAN FOR MAN

1 Corinthians 11:9 — A Helper Who Is Right for Him

“Neither was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.”

Paul gives another point from Genesis.

God said it was not good for the man to be alone.

So He created woman as **“a helper who is right for him.”**

The word **helper** in the Old Testament is never a word of weakness.

It is often used of God Himself, who helps His people.

Woman was created to stand beside man as his partner.

Paul's point is about God's purpose and order in creation.

It is not about one being better than the other.

Cross References

Genesis 2:18

> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him.”

Genesis 2:20

> The man gave names to all the livestock, the birds, and all the wild animals. But no helper who was right for him was found.

1 Timothy 2:13

> For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

Spiritual Principle

A helper is not a lesser person; God Himself is called the helper of His people.

X. BECAUSE OF THE ANGELS

1 Corinthians 11:10 — A Symbol of Authority

“For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.”

Paul draws a conclusion.

“The woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head.”

The head covering was a symbol.

Some understand it as a sign that she honors the order God has given.

Others understand it as a sign of her own authority to pray and prophesy in the church.

Then Paul adds a mysterious phrase:

“Because of the angels.”

Bible students have offered several explanations.

Many believe that angels are present when the church worships, and that they watch to see God's order honored.

The Bible teaches that angels serve God's people and care about His glory.

Whatever the full meaning, Paul is reminding the church that worship is watched by heaven.

Cross References

Genesis 6:2

> the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they took as wives any of them they chose.

Psalm 103:20

> Praise the LORD, you His angels, you mighty ones who carry out His word and obey His voice.

Hebrews 1:14

> Aren't all angels spirits who serve God and are sent to help those who will receive salvation?

Spiritual Principle

Worship takes place before an audience in heaven.

Key Truth

When the church gathers, it is never only people who are watching.

XI. NOT INDEPENDENT

1 Corinthians 11:11 — In the Lord

“Nevertheless, in the Lord, woman is not independent of man, nor man independent of woman.”

This is a very important verse.

Paul has been speaking about order.

Now he guards against misunderstanding.

“Nevertheless.”

He wants to balance what he has said.

“In the Lord.”

In Christ, men and women are bound together.

Woman is not independent of man.

Nor man independent of woman.

They need each other.

They depend on each other.

Order does not mean that one can do without the other.

In the Lord, they are partners.

Cross References

Galatians 3:28

> There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female. You are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 5:21

> Submit to one another out of respect for Christ.

Genesis 2:24

> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two become one flesh.

Spiritual Principle

In Christ, men and women need each other and depend on each other.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's order never cancels mutual dependence and love.

XII. ALL THINGS ARE FROM GOD

1 Corinthians 11:12 — Man Comes Through Woman

“For just as woman came from man, so also man comes through woman; and all things are from God.”

Paul gives the other side of creation.

“Woman came from man.”

Eve came from Adam.

“So also man comes through woman.”

Every man since Adam has been born of a woman.

Men owe their lives to their mothers.

Neither can boast over the other.

Then Paul gives the final word:

“All things are from God.”

Men and women both come from God.

Both depend on Him.

Both belong to Him.

Cross References

Genesis 2:22

> Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken from the man, and He brought her to the man.

Genesis 3:20

> The man named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all who live.

Romans 11:36

> For everything comes from Him, exists through Him, and is for Him. To Him be glory forever! Amen.

Spiritual Principle

All people, men and women alike, come from God and depend on Him.

Key Truth

No one has room for pride, because everyone owes their life to God.

XIII. JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES

1 Corinthians 11:13 — Is It Proper?

“Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God uncovered?”

Paul invites the Corinthians to think it through.

“Judge for yourselves.”

He asks them to use their own sense of what is fitting.

“Is it proper?”

In their culture, everyone knew what was considered proper and respectful.

Paul expected them to see that the women's behavior was not fitting for worship.

He was not asking them to follow a rule without understanding.

He wanted them to see why it mattered.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 10:15

> I am speaking to sensible people. Judge for yourselves what I say.

1 Timothy 2:9

> In the same way, I want women to dress modestly and sensibly, with decency. Their beauty should not come from fancy hair, gold, pearls, or expensive clothes,

1 Peter 3:4

> Instead, let it come from the inner self, the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious to God.

Spiritual Principle

God wants His people to think carefully about what honors Him in worship.

XIV. WHAT NATURE TEACHES

1 Corinthians 11:14 — Long Hair on a Man

“Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him,”

Paul appeals to **nature.**

He means the natural sense of what is fitting that people shared in his day.

In that culture, long hair on a man was seen as a disgrace.

It was viewed as blurring the difference between men and women.

There were special exceptions, such as the Nazirite vow, where a man let his hair grow as a sign of his dedication to God.

But generally, men wore their hair short.

Paul's point is that God made men and women different, and that difference should be honored.

Cross References

Leviticus 19:27

> Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or trim the edges of your beard.

Ezekiel 44:20

> The priests must not shave their heads or let their hair grow long. They must keep their hair trimmed.

Numbers 6:5

> During the whole time of his Nazirite vow, no razor may be used on his head. Until the time of his dedication to the LORD is over, he must be holy and let his hair grow long.

Spiritual Principle

God created men and women different, and that difference should be honored, not erased.

XV. HER GLORY

1 Corinthians 11:15 — Hair Given as a Covering

“but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering.”

In contrast, a woman's long hair was considered her glory.

It was a sign of her beauty and honor.

“For her hair is given to her for a covering.”

God has given woman a natural covering.

Paul uses this to support his point.

Just as nature gives her a covering, so it is fitting for her to be covered in worship.

Some Bible students believe that Paul is saying her hair itself is the covering he has been talking about.

Others believe he is using her hair as an illustration that points to the need for a head covering.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:1

> How beautiful you are, my darling! How beautiful you are! Your eyes behind your veil are like doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats coming down from Mount Gilead.

Luke 7:38

> She stood behind Him at His feet, weeping. She began to wet His feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. She kissed His feet and poured perfume on them.

1 Peter 3:3

> Your beauty should not come from outward things, like fancy hairstyles, gold jewelry, or fine clothes.

Spiritual Principle

Womanhood is a glory God has given, to be honored and not hidden in shame.

Key Truth

The woman who wiped Jesus' feet with her hair laid her glory at His feet.

XVI. NO SUCH CUSTOM

1 Corinthians 11:16 — If Anyone Is Contentious

“But if anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.”

Paul ends this section with a word to those who want to argue.

“If anyone is inclined to be contentious.”

Some in Corinth loved to argue.

Paul says the matter is settled.

“We have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.”

The other churches did not follow the practice the Corinthians were adopting.

Corinth must not go its own way.

The church in every place belongs to the same Lord and should walk in the same way.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 14:33

> For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the churches of God's people.

1 Timothy 6:4

> he is proud and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy love of arguments and fights about words. These lead to envy, quarrels, insults, and evil suspicions,

Titus 3:9

> But stay away from foolish arguments, debates about family histories, quarrels, and fights about the law, because they are useless and worthless.

Spiritual Principle

A contentious spirit does not honor God.

Application

When you disagree, ask yourself whether you are seeking truth or simply seeking to win.

XVII. NOT FOR THE BETTER

1 Corinthians 11:17 — “I Do Not Praise You”

“But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse.”

Paul now turns to a much more serious problem.

At the start of the chapter, he said, **“I praise you.”**

Now he says:

“I do not praise you.”

Why?

“Because you come together not for the better but for the worse.”

This is a shocking statement.

The church's gatherings were supposed to build people up.

Instead, they were doing harm.

It would have been better if they had stayed home.

Cross References

James 3:16

> Wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there will be disorder and every kind of evil.

1 Corinthians 1:11

> For some from Chloe's household have told me, my brothers and sisters, that there are quarrels among you.

1 Corinthians 3:3

> You are still worldly. Since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, aren't you living like people of the world?

Spiritual Principle

Church gatherings should make us better, not worse.

Application

When you leave church, are you more loving, more humble, and more like Christ?

XVIII. DIVISIONS AMONG YOU

1 Corinthians 11:18 — When You Come Together

“For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.”

Paul explains the problem.

“When you come together as a church.”

This is the gathered church at worship.

“I hear that there are divisions among you.”

In Chapter 1, the divisions were over leaders.

Here, they were over social class.

The rich and the poor were divided even at the Lord's table.

“In part I believe it.”

Paul is careful.

He does not want to believe the worst.

But he knows enough to be concerned.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 1:10

> I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be completely united in mind and purpose.

Romans 16:17

> I urge you, brothers and sisters, watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that go against the teaching you have learned. Stay away from them.

1 Corinthians 3:3

> You are still worldly. Since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, aren't you living like people of the world?

Spiritual Principle

Divisions in the church dishonor the One who made us one.

Key Truth

Paul was slow to believe bad reports, but he did not ignore them.

XIX. THOSE WHO ARE GENUINE

1 Corinthians 11:19 — Factions Reveal the Heart

“For there must be factions among you, so that those who are genuine may be recognized among you.”

This is a hard verse.

Paul is not saying factions are good.

He has already condemned them.

Some Bible students believe Paul is speaking with irony:

“I suppose you must have your factions, so that you can show everyone who is truly approved!”

Others believe Paul is saying that God allows divisions as a test.

In times of conflict, it becomes clear who is truly faithful and who is not.

Either way, the point is the same.

Conflict reveals hearts.

Cross References

1 John 2:19

> They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. If they had belonged to us, they would have stayed with us. But by leaving, they showed that none of them belonged to us.

Deuteronomy 13:3

> do not listen to that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love Him with all your heart and soul.

1 Corinthians 3:13

> each person's work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will make it clear. It will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what kind of work each one has done.

Spiritual Principle

Times of conflict reveal what is truly in our hearts.

XX. NOT THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 Corinthians 11:20 — What It Had Become

“Therefore, when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.”

Paul makes a startling claim.

The Corinthians thought they were eating the Lord's Supper.

But Paul says:

“It is not to eat the Lord's Supper.”

Their meal had become so selfish and divided that it no longer deserved to be called the Lord's Supper.

It had become their own supper.

The Lord's Supper is meant to remember the Lord who gave Himself for others.

A selfish meal cannot honor a self-giving Savior.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 11:23

> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: on the night the Lord Jesus was betrayed, He took bread.

Acts 2:42

> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

Acts 20:7

> On the first day of the week, we gathered to break bread. Paul spoke to the people, and since he planned to leave the next day, he kept talking until midnight.

Spiritual Principle

The Lord's Supper must reflect the Lord's love, or it is no longer truly His Supper.

XXI. ONE HUNGRY, ANOTHER DRUNK

1 Corinthians 11:21 — Each One Goes Ahead

“For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal; one goes hungry, another gets drunk.”

Paul describes what was happening.

In the early church, believers often met in the homes of wealthier members.

They shared a full meal together, sometimes called a **love feast**, along with the Lord's Supper.

But in Corinth, the wealthy arrived early.

They did not wait.

“Each one goes ahead with his own meal.”

They ate the best food.

They drank too much wine.

“One goes hungry, another gets drunk.”

The poor, including slaves who worked late, arrived to find little or nothing left.

What should have been a picture of unity had become a picture of selfishness.

Cross References

James 2:3

> If you pay special attention to the man in fine clothes and say, “Here's a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,”

Jude 1:12

> These people are hidden reefs at your love feasts. They eat with you without shame, caring only for themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead and pulled up by the roots.

Philippians 3:19

> Their end is destruction. Their god is their stomach, and they are proud of what should shame them. Their minds are set on earthly things.

Spiritual Principle

Selfishness at the Lord's table denies the very meaning of the Lord's table.

Key Truth

The world divides people by wealth.

The church must not.

XXII. DO YOU DESPISE THE CHURCH OF GOD?

1 Corinthians 11:22 — Humiliating Those Who Have Nothing

“What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I do not praise you.”

Paul's anger comes through clearly.

“What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?”

If they wanted a private feast, they should have it at home.

“Do you despise the church of God?”

By their behavior, they were treating God's church with contempt.

“And humiliate those who have nothing?”

The poor were being shamed in front of everyone.

This was not just bad manners.

It was sin against God's people.

“Shall I praise you? In this I do not praise you.”

Cross References

James 2:5

> Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Hasn't God chosen people who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to receive the kingdom He promised to those who love Him?

James 2:6

> But you have treated the poor with dishonor. Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court?

Proverbs 14:31

> Whoever oppresses the poor insults their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors Him.

Spiritual Principle

To humiliate the poor is to despise the church of God.

Application

Is there anyone in your church who feels left out or looked down on?

What could you do to welcome them?

XXIII. ON THE NIGHT HE WAS BETRAYED

1 Corinthians 11:23 — Received from the Lord

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread.”

Paul now reminds them of what the Lord's Supper really is.

“I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you.”

This teaching did not come from Paul.

It came from the Lord Himself.

Paul faithfully passed it on.

“On the night when He was betrayed.”

Notice when Jesus gave this meal.

On the darkest night of His earthly life.

One of His own disciples was betraying Him.

The others would soon run away.

And in that moment, Jesus gave His people a meal to remember His love.

“Took bread.”

An ordinary loaf of bread.

But Jesus was about to give it a new and holy meaning.

Cross References

Matthew 26:26

> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is My body.”

Luke 22:19

> Then He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, given for you. Do this to remember Me.”

Mark 14:22

> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take it; this is My body.”

Spiritual Principle

The Lord's Supper was given by Jesus Himself, in the shadow of the cross.

Key Truth

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus was thinking about His people.

XXIV. THIS IS MY BODY

1 Corinthians 11:24 — In Remembrance of Me

“And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.””

Jesus did three things with the bread.

He gave thanks.

Even facing the cross, Jesus thanked the Father.

He broke it.

A picture of His body soon to be broken on the cross.

He said, “This is My body, which is for you.”

His death was not for Himself.

It was **for you.**

Then He gave a command:

“Do this in remembrance of Me.”

The Lord's Supper is a meal of remembering.

Not just recalling a fact.

But calling to mind, with faith and gratitude, everything Jesus did for us.

Cross References

Matthew 26:26

> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is My body.”

Luke 22:19

> Then He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, given for you. Do this to remember Me.”

Mark 14:22

> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take it; this is My body.”

Spiritual Principle

The Lord's Supper calls us to remember that Christ's body was given for us.

Key Truth

The Corinthians were each eating their own meal.

Jesus gave His body **for** others.

XXV. THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD

1 Corinthians 11:25 — The Cup After Supper

“In the same way, He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.””

Then Jesus took the cup.

“This cup is the new covenant in My blood.”

A **covenant** is a binding agreement.

God made the old covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai, sealed with the blood of animals.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God promised a new covenant.

He would write His law on their hearts.

He would forgive their sins and remember them no more.

Jesus says that new covenant is sealed **in My blood.**

His death makes the new covenant real.

Again He commands:

“Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Cross References

Luke 22:20

> In the same way, after supper He took the cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.”

Matthew 26:28

> This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Jeremiah 31:31

> “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and the people of Judah.”

Spiritual Principle

The blood of Christ establishes the new covenant of forgiveness and new life.

Key Truth

Every time we drink the cup, we remember the promise God kept in Christ.

XXVI. YOU PROCLAIM THE LORD'S DEATH

1 Corinthians 11:26 — Until He Comes

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.”

Paul explains what the Lord's Supper does.

“You proclaim the Lord's death.”

The Lord's Supper is a sermon without words.

Every time the church eats the bread and drinks the cup, it announces to the world that Christ died for sinners.

“Until He comes.”

The Lord's Supper looks backward to the cross.

It also looks forward to Christ's return.

It is a meal for the time in between.

One day, we will eat with Him in His kingdom.

Until then, we remember and proclaim.

Cross References

Matthew 26:29

> I tell you, I will not drink this fruit of the vine again until the day I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.

Luke 22:18

> For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

Acts 1:11

> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you saw Him go into heaven.”

Spiritual Principle

The Lord's Supper looks back to the cross and forward to Christ's return.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every time the church takes the Lord's Supper, it preaches the gospel.

XXVII. IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER

1 Corinthians 11:27 — Guilty of the Body and Blood

“Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.”

Paul now gives a serious warning.

Notice the words carefully.

Paul does not say **“whoever is unworthy.”**

No one is worthy of Christ's sacrifice.

That is the whole point of grace.

Paul says **“in an unworthy manner.”**

This means taking the Lord's Supper carelessly, selfishly, or without regard for what it means.

In Corinth, it meant eating while despising the poor and dishonoring the church.

Such a person **“will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.”**

He is treating Christ's sacrifice as if it did not matter.

Cross References

Hebrews 10:29

> How much worse punishment do you think a person deserves who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, treated as common the blood of the covenant that made him holy, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

John 6:53

> Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.”

Numbers 9:13

> But if a man who is clean and not on a journey fails to celebrate the Passover, he must be cut off from his people, because he did not bring the LORD's offering at the appointed time. He will bear the guilt of his sin.

Spiritual Principle

The Lord's Supper must be received with reverence, because it represents Christ's sacrifice.

Key Truth

No one comes to the table because they are worthy.

We come because Christ is worthy, and we come in a worthy manner when we come humbly.

XXVIII. EXAMINE YOURSELF

1 Corinthians 11:28 — Then Eat and Drink

“But let a person examine himself, and in this way let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”

What is the answer to Paul's warning?

“Let a person examine himself.”

Before coming to the Lord's table, each believer should look honestly at his own heart.

Am I holding on to sin?

Am I at peace with my brothers and sisters?

Do I understand what this meal means?

Am I coming in faith?

Notice what Paul says next:

“And in this way let him eat.”

Self-examination is not meant to keep believers away from the table.

It is meant to prepare them to come.

We examine, confess, and then come with joy.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 13:5

> Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Don't you realize that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you fail the test?

Lamentations 3:40

> Let us look closely at our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.

Galatians 6:4

> Each person should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself alone, without comparing himself to someone else.

Spiritual Principle

Self-examination prepares us to come to the Lord's table, not to stay away from it.

Application

Before the next time you take the Lord's Supper, spend time in honest prayer.

Confess your sin, make things right with others, and come with thanksgiving.

XXIX. DISCERNING THE BODY

1 Corinthians 11:29 — Eating Judgment

“For the one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

What does **“discerning the body”** mean?

Bible students understand it in two ways, and both may be true.

Some believe it means recognizing **the Lord's body**—understanding that this bread represents Christ's body given for us.

Others believe it means recognizing **the church as Christ's body**—seeing that all believers are one, and treating them with love.

In Corinth, both were missing.

They did not honor Christ's sacrifice.

And they did not honor their poor brothers and sisters.

Such a person **“eats and drinks judgment on himself.”**

Cross References

Hebrews 10:29

> How much worse punishment do you think a person deserves who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, treated as common the blood of the covenant that made him holy, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

1 Corinthians 10:16

> The cup of blessing that we bless, isn't it a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, isn't it a sharing in the body of Christ?

Leviticus 7:20

> But if anyone who is unclean eats meat from the fellowship offering that belongs to the LORD, that person must be cut off from his people.

Spiritual Principle

To honor Christ at His table, we must honor both His sacrifice and His people.

XXX. WEAK, SICK, AND ASLEEP

1 Corinthians 11:30 — The Lord's Discipline

“For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and many sleep.”

Paul makes a sobering statement.

“For this reason.”

Because of how they were treating the Lord's Supper.

“Many among you are weak and sick.”

“And many sleep.”

Sleep is a gentle word the New Testament uses for the death of believers.

Paul is saying that God was disciplining the Corinthian church.

Some were ill.

Some had died.

This does not mean that every sickness is caused by sin.

The Bible clearly teaches otherwise.

But in this case, Paul says God was using physical discipline because of their careless and selfish behavior at His table.

Cross References

John 5:14

> Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “Look, you are well now. Stop sinning, or something worse may happen to you.”

James 5:15

> The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who have fallen asleep in death, so that you will not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

Spiritual Principle

God takes His table seriously.

Spiritual Warning

Not all sickness is caused by sin.

But some sin does bring God's discipline.

XXXI. IF WE JUDGED OURSELVES

1 Corinthians 11:31 — We Would Not Be Judged

"But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged."

Paul gives the way to avoid God's discipline.

"If we judged ourselves truly."

If we honestly examine our hearts and deal with our sin, God will not need to step in.

"We would not be judged."

This is a promise of mercy.

When we confess our sins, God forgives.

Honest self-judgment spares us from God's discipline.

Cross References

Psalm 32:5

> Then I admitted my sin to You and did not hide my wrongdoing. I said, "I will confess my sins to the LORD," and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

1 John 1:9

> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wrongdoing.

Lamentations 3:40

> Let us look closely at our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.

Spiritual Principle

Honest confession spares us from God's discipline.

Application

Do not wait for God to correct you.

Examine yourself and confess your sin today.

XXXII. DISCIPLINED, NOT CONDEMNED

1 Corinthians 11:32 — Not Condemned with the World

“But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned with the world.”

Here is great comfort.

Even when God disciplines His children, it is an act of love.

“We are disciplined.”

The word means to train a child.

God's discipline is like a loving father correcting his children.

“So that we may not be condemned with the world.”

God's discipline of believers is not condemnation.

It is meant to keep them from the condemnation that will fall on the world.

God disciplines His children because they are His children.

Cross References

Hebrews 12:6

> The Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He corrects everyone He accepts as His child.

Hebrews 12:11

> No discipline seems pleasant at the time; it seems painful. But later it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Revelation 3:19

I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be eager to obey, and turn away from your sins.

Spiritual Principle

God's discipline is proof of His love, not His rejection.

Key Truth

The Lord disciplines His children to keep them, not to destroy them.

XXXIII. WAIT FOR ONE ANOTHER

1 Corinthians 11:33 — When You Come Together

“Therefore, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.”

Paul now gives the practical solution.

Notice how tenderly he speaks:

“My brothers and sisters.”

Then the simple command:

“Wait for one another.”

Do not rush ahead.

Do not eat before others arrive.

Welcome one another.

Share with one another.

This small act of waiting would show love, honor, and unity.

It would turn their selfish meal back into the Lord's Supper.

Cross References

Romans 12:10

Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Philippians 2:4

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Hebrews 10:24

And let us think about how to stir one another up to love and good works.

Spiritual Principle

Love waits for others and makes room for them.

Application

In your church, who might need you to wait for them, welcome them, and include them?

XXXIV. EAT AT HOME

1 Corinthians 11:34 — Not for Judgment

“If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.”

Paul gives one more practical instruction.

“If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home.”

If someone is so hungry that he cannot wait for others, he should eat before he comes.

The gathering of the church is not mainly about filling stomachs.

It is about worshiping the Lord together.

“So that when you come together it will not be for judgment.”

Paul wants their gatherings to bring blessing, not discipline.

“The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.”

There were other issues Paul would deal with in person.

Not everything needed to be written in a letter.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 4:19

> But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord wants me to. Then I will find out not only what these proud people are saying, but what power they really have.

1 Corinthians 16:5

> I will come to you after I go through Macedonia, because I plan to travel through Macedonia.

Titus 1:5

> I left you in Crete so that you could put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I told you.

Spiritual Principle

The church's gatherings should bring blessing, not judgment.

Key Truth

Simple acts of consideration can protect the unity of the church.

XXXV. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 11

1. Follow Christ Through Faithful Examples

“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

Principle:

We follow godly examples as they follow Christ.

2. God's Order in Headship

Christ is the head of man, man is the head of woman, and God is the head of Christ.

Principle:

This order reflects God's design, not human pride, and it does not mean any difference in worth.

3. Worship Must Be Honorable

How men and women presented themselves in worship mattered.

Principle:

Reverence in prayer and prophecy should reflect God's created order.

4. The Lord's Supper Is Sacred

“This is My body, which is for you.”

Principle:

The Lord's Supper is not a common meal, but a holy remembrance of Christ's sacrifice.

5. Self-Examination Prevents Judgment

“Let a person examine himself.”

Principle:

Those who examine themselves approach the Table in humility and are spared the Lord's discipline.

6. Unity and Love in Gathering

“Wait for one another.”

Principle:

Believers must show honor to one another, so that worship builds up instead of bringing judgment.

XXXVI. UNDERSTANDING HEAD COVERINGS

Verses 3–16 are among the most debated in Paul's letters.

Faithful Bible students have understood them in different ways.

What Is Clear

- God has built an order into creation.

- Men and women are equal in worth before God.
- Men and women are different, and that difference should be honored.
- Women prayed and prophesied in the worship of the early church.
- In the Lord, men and women depend on each other.
- Worship should honor God and avoid bringing shame on others.

The Culture of Corinth

A respectable woman, especially a married woman, usually covered her head in public.

An uncovered or shaved head on a woman was seen as shameful.

Roman men often covered their heads when leading pagan worship.

How Churches Apply It Today

Some churches believe the head covering is still required for women in worship, because Paul bases his teaching on creation.

Other churches believe the outward custom belonged to that culture, while the principle behind it remains: honoring God's design, showing modesty, and respecting one another in worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Whatever our practice, our hearts must honor God's design, respect one another, and keep worship focused on Him.

XXXVII. THE LORD'S SUPPER

Verses 23–26 are the earliest written account of the Lord's Supper in the New Testament.

Its Origin

It was given by the Lord Jesus Himself, on the night He was betrayed.

The Bread

“This is My body, which is for you.”

It reminds us that Christ's body was given for us.

The Cup

“This cup is the new covenant in My blood.”

It reminds us that Christ's blood brings forgiveness and a new relationship with God.

Its Purpose

- To remember Christ.
- To proclaim His death.
- To look forward to His return.
- To express the unity of His body, the church.

How to Come

- With faith.
- With self-examination.
- With confession of sin.
- With love for one another.
- With thanksgiving.

Key Truth

The Lord's Supper looks back to the cross, looks around at the church, looks within at our hearts, and looks forward to Christ's return.

XXXVIII. WHAT 1 CORINTHIANS 11 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

Jesus Is Our Example

“Just as I also am of Christ.”

Jesus Is the Head of Every Man

He leads and cares for His people.

Jesus Honors the Father

“The head of Christ is God.”

Jesus Gave His Body for Us

“This is My body, which is for you.”

Jesus Established the New Covenant

“This cup is the new covenant in My blood.”

Jesus Is Coming Again

“You proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Lord who gave His body for us now invites us to His table and will one day return for us.

XXXIX. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why does Paul tell the Corinthians to imitate him?

Because he was following Christ.

He was a living example of what it means to put others first.

Question 2

What does “the head of the woman is the man” mean?

It describes an order God built into creation.

Bible students differ on whether “head” mainly means authority, source, or both.

It does not mean women are of less worth, just as Christ is not of less worth than the Father.

Question 3

Did women take part in worship in the early church?

Yes.

Paul assumes that women prayed and prophesied in public worship.

His concern was how they did it, not whether they did it.

Question 4

Why were head coverings important in Corinth?

In that culture, a woman's head covering was a sign of modesty and honor.

Removing it would bring shame on her and her husband.

Question 5

Must Christian women wear head coverings today?

Faithful churches answer this differently.

Some believe it is still required because Paul points back to creation.

Others believe the principle remains while the outward custom was cultural.

All agree that worship must honor God and one another.

Question 6

What does verse 11 add to Paul's teaching?

In the Lord, men and women are not independent of each other.

They need each other and depend on each other.

Question 7

What was wrong with the way the Corinthians observed the Lord's Supper?

The wealthy ate first and some got drunk.

The poor arrived to find nothing left.

The meal had become selfish and divided.

Question 8

What did Jesus say about the bread and the cup?

The bread is His body, given for us.

The cup is the new covenant in His blood.

We are to do this in remembrance of Him.

Question 9

What does it mean to eat in an "unworthy manner"?

It means taking the Lord's Supper carelessly, selfishly, or without regard for its meaning.

It does not mean that only perfect people may come.

Question 10

What does it mean to "discern the body"?

It means recognizing the meaning of Christ's sacrifice.

It also means recognizing the church as Christ's body and treating fellow believers with love.

Question 11

Is all sickness a result of sin?

No.

But Paul says that in Corinth, God was disciplining some believers because of how they treated the Lord's Supper.

Question 12

What should 1 Corinthians 11 change about the way Christians live today?

1 Corinthians 11 should cause believers to live:

- Following Christ and godly examples.
- Honoring God's design for men and women.
- Treating one another as equal in worth and mutually dependent.
- Coming to worship with reverence.

- Remembering Christ's sacrifice at His table.
- Examining their hearts before the Lord's Supper.
- Welcoming and honoring the poor.
- Waiting for one another in love.

XL. PERSONAL APPLICATION

1 Corinthians 11 asks several important questions.

Whose Example Am I Following?

And is my life an example worth following?

Do I Honor God's Design?

In my home, my relationships, and my worship?

Do I Value Men and Women Equally?

Do I treat others as fellow image-bearers of God?

Do I Come to Worship with Reverence?

Or do I come carelessly?

How Do I Treat Those Who Have Less?

Do I welcome them, or overlook them?

Do I Remember Christ at His Table?

Or has the Lord's Supper become a routine?

Do I Examine Myself?

Am I holding on to sin I need to confess?

Am I at Peace with My Brothers and Sisters?

Is there someone I need to make things right with before I come to the table?

XLI. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Table Shows the Heart”

What happens around a table reveals what is in the heart.

In Corinth, the table revealed selfishness.

The rich ate first.

The poor went hungry.

And the Lord's Supper became a picture of the world instead of a picture of Christ.

But the Lord's table was meant to show something very different.

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks.

He broke it.

And He said, **“This is My body, which is for you.”**

Jesus did not come to the table to be served.

He came to give Himself.

This creates a powerful principle.

The way we treat one another at the Lord's table should look like the way the Lord treated us.

If He gave Himself for us, we can wait for one another.

If He was broken for us, we can make room for others.

Principle:

The Lord's Supper must be shared in the same self-giving love it remembers.

XLII. FINAL APPLICATION

1 Corinthians Chapter 11 was written to a church whose worship had gone wrong.

Some had ignored the customs that showed honor in worship.

Some had turned the Lord's Supper into a selfish feast.

The rich were honored.

The poor were humiliated.

And God was disciplining His church.

Paul called them back.

Back to God's design.

Back to the cross.

Back to the Lord's table as Jesus gave it.

Back to love for one another.

1 Corinthians 11 therefore reminds us:

Never come to worship carelessly.

Never forget God's good design.

Never look down on a brother or sister.

Never take the Lord's Supper lightly.

Never stop examining your own heart.

The church does not need gatherings that make people worse.

It needs:

Worship that honors God.

Respect between men and women.

Tables where the poor are welcomed.

And hearts that remember the Lord's death until He comes.

The same gospel still calls us:

Tell people that Christ's body was given for them.

Tell people that His blood established the new covenant.

Tell people that they can be forgiven.

Tell people that He is coming again.

And whenever you gather:

Remember Him.

Examine yourself.

Welcome one another.

Proclaim His death until He comes.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the example of faithful believers who follow Christ.

Thank You for the good design You built into creation.

Thank You that men and women are made in Your image and are equal in worth before You.

Thank You that in the Lord, we need one another and belong to one another.

Thank You for the Lord's Supper.

Thank You that on the night He was betrayed, Jesus took bread and gave Himself for us.

Thank You for His body, given for us.

Thank You for His blood, which sealed the new covenant.

Thank You that He is coming again.

Forgive us when we have come to worship carelessly.

Forgive us when we have overlooked or humiliated those who have less.

Forgive us when the Lord's Supper has become a routine instead of a remembrance.

Forgive us when we have come to Your table without examining our hearts.

Teach us to honor Your design.

Teach us to honor one another.

Help us to wait for one another, welcome one another, and love one another.

Search our hearts before we come to Your table.

And may every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

“Do this in remembrance of Me.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.” — 1 Corinthians 11:26

Central Truth

Worship must honor God's design and reflect the self-giving love of Christ, so believers must come to the Lord's Supper with reverence, self-examination, and love for one another, proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11 in One Sentence

Paul calls the Corinthians to follow his example as he follows Christ, to honor God's created order in worship while remembering that men and women depend on each other in the Lord, and to stop turning the Lord's Supper into a selfish meal, instead examining themselves and waiting for one another as they proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.