

As we move through Corinthians, we will keep our place by developing the broad outline we started with.

I. Introduction (1.1-9)

II. Conditions reported to Paul (1.10-6.20)

- A. Divisions in the church (1.10-4.21)
- B. Lack of discipline in the church (5.1-6.20)

III. Questions asked of Paul (7.1-16.4)

1 Cor 7.1 ¶ Now concerning the things about which you wrote...

“The remainder of the body of this epistle deals with questions that the Corinthians had asked Paul in a letter. Paul introduced each of these with the phrase *peri de* (‘now concerning,’ 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1, 12).”¹

- A. Questions about marriage (7.1-40)
- B. Questions about things sacrificed to idols (8.1-11.1)
- C. Questions about worship services
 1. Head coverings (11.2-16)

Note: more detailed explanation of the Head Coverings passage available if interested, please ask Pastor Don for a copy.

2. Communion practices (11.17-34)

Compare 11.2 and 11.17: What is the difference between these verses? In v. 2, Paul praises their firm traditionalism; in v. 17 Paul does not praise them

1 Cor 11.2 ¶ Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.

Compare 11.17, 18, 20 – what is repeated in these verses? **“come together”** (or **“meet together”**)

What is Paul’s commentary on these meetings?

1. In v. 17, “you come together ... for **the worse**”

¹ Tom Constable, *Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), 1 Co 7.1.

2. In v. 18, "I hear that **divisions exist among you**"

What is one positive side effect from divisions? (19) **those who are approved are revealed**

Verses 20-21 describe what is going on in Corinth. The wording is terse, enough is said that the Corinthians themselves know immediately what Paul is describing. Pick out the key details:

1. Verse 20: Their meeting is NOT **to eat the Lord's Supper**
2. Verse 21: Their meeting involves some kind of division over the meal with the result that **one is hungry and one is drunk**

In verse 22, Paul reacts strongly. What was the central offense?

They despised the church and shamed the poor among them

"Paul is asking, 'You certainly have houses to eat and drink in, don't you?' The apostle affirms that there is no problem if these wealthy believers want to eat their own fine food in their own homes, *but they should not do so in a church worship setting*, where sharing was expected. By this behavior, such people are casting shame on the have-nots in the church and thus showing how much they despise the church itself."²

Corrective: The Lord's Supper as Instituted (23-27)

Key facts in Paul's retelling:

1. Where did Paul get this teaching? (23) **from the Lord himself (could be directly or indirectly)**
2. What did the bread of the supper represent? (23b-24) **the broken body of our Lord**
3. What did the wine of the supper represent? (25) **the shed blood of our Lord**
4. What did partaking in the supper represent? (24b, 25b, 26) **remembering the cross and proclaiming the return**

² Verlyn D. Verbrugge, "1 Corinthians," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Romans-Galatians*, ed. Tremper Longman and David E. Garland, Revised Edition, vol. 11 (Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2006), 359.

How does this retelling rebuke the goings-on in Corinth?

They demeaned the supper by their behaviour, the apostle restores its high significance

Conclusions:

What is the unworthy manner mentioned in v. 27? (Consider the context) **the self-centered divisions in the Corinthian service**

What corrective must each one take, v. 28? **Self-examination**

What are the consequences for the one who errs in examining himself described in v. 27b and v.29?

1. (27b) **guilt of bringing shame to the Lord**
2. (29) **judgement on himself**

What does Paul mean when he says, “does not judge the body rightly” in v. 29? **Failure to discern the Lord’s body and the body of the church**

What judgement had some Corinthians experienced? (30) **sickness and death**

When Paul talks about judgement of believers (self-judgement, 31, and divine judgement, 32), what does he mean to say about their spiritual condition? **They are indeed believers, but under discipline if they won’t judge themselves**

What are Paul’s final conclusions on the matter? (33-34) **they are to carefully consider one another and not make the Lord’s Supper a selfish spectacle**