

The Body and Blood of Christ Mystery

Pastor Ken Sistrunk

I Corinthians 11:17-32 ¹⁷In the following instructions I have no praise to offer, because your gatherings do more harm than good. ¹⁸First of all, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹And indeed, there must be differences among you to show which of you are approved. ²⁰Now then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat. ²¹For as you eat, each of you goes ahead without sharing his meal. While one remains hungry, another gets drunk. ²²Don't you have your own homes in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What can I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? No, I will not! ²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. ²⁷Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Each one must examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹Now if we judged ourselves properly, we would not come under judgment. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

A. The early church had "**Love Feasts**" where they celebrated the Last Supper.

V. 21-22

Jude 1:12 These men are hidden reefs in your love feasts, shamelessly feasting with you but shepherding only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried along by the wind; fruitless trees in autumn, twice dead after being uprooted.

(BSB)

B. Not everyone in the local church is on the same **level** in belief and maturity.

V. 18-19

C. There are three **applications** of the terms: "Body" and "Blood" of the Lord. V. 27

1. **Literal**: The actual human body and blood of Jesus Christ. V. 23

2. **Figurative**: The communion elements. V. 24

3. **Spiritual**: The Church and the Holy Spirit interacting in the Church as we interact with one another. V. 27-29

D. There are consequences to **selfish** behavior in dealing with the needs of your fellow believers. V. 29-31

- E. When bad things happen to us it is ok to use these events as times of **introspection**. However, not all bad things are our fault. God desires to work through all things.

II. How can we apply these truths?

- A. We need to look for ways to go **beyond** just our specific group of friends and have meals with others in our fellowship.
- B. The **value** in our communion services will be increased if we continue to understand the three applications of the terms body and blood of Christ.
- C. We need to get beyond **self-pity** when bad things happen to us and to seek God during these trials.
- D. We need to see other believer's struggles as **opportunities** to pray over them and to show love to them.
- E. We must receive the **warning** that if you are not growing in your faith you are digressing in your faith.