

Etiquette of the Lord's Supper

➤ Pre-event Foundation (1 Cor 11.2-16)

- Concept #1: Honor vs. Dishonor (11.2-6)
- Concept #2: Glory of God vs. Glory of Man (11.7-9, 11-15)
- Concept #3: Heavenly angelic hosts vs. Satanic angelic hosts (11.10)
- Centerpiece: Honoring God, glorying God, declaring God—all about God
- Common Thread for the next paragraph

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➤ Problems (1 Cor 11.17-22)

- Summary: Not a good thing but a bad thing (11.17)
- Self (11.18-22)
 - Selfish divisions (11.17-18)
 - Selfish leaders (11.19)
 - Selfish actions (11.20-22)
 - Selfless results (11.19)—despise = scorn

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➤ Personal (1 Cor 11.27-34)

■ “Unworthy manner” (v 27)

- Distinction: This is different from our worthiness as undone sinners; in Christ, we are able to approach God (Hb 4.14-16)
- Difference: Behavior in similarity to the self-focus of the Corinthians is to treat the Lord's sacrifice in an irreverent & careless manner
- Discussion: Are we, am I guilty of careless or negligence or irreverence of the Lord's supper

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➤ Personal (1 Cor 11.27-34)

■ Worthwhile introspection

- Proper evaluation: This leads to a self-judgment that we respond to (v 31)
- Proper results: This removes oneself from the chastening of the Lord and removal of the type of judgment that the world would receive, i.e. severe (vv 31-32)
- Program note: This judgment is of physical chastening, not loss of salvation

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➤ Personal (1 Cor 11.27-34)

■ Worth Manner at the "Love Feast" (vv 33-34)

- Idea: "The Love Feast Meal" was combined with the "Lord's Supper"
- Waiting on one another: An act of selflessness (v 33) vs. "each one taking his own supper ahead of others" (v 21)
- One's appetites: Satisfy those hunger pangs at home (v. 34)

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➤ Principles

- NOTE: No frank protocols explained in the NT; must rely on principles and derived practices from such principles
- P#1: We are to remember the Lord Jesus (Body & blood)
 - Focus will be on the person and work of Christ
 - Worship will inevitably erupt to God concerning his Son
- P#2: Personal and corporate self-evaluation is a necessity prior to partaking—avoiding chastening of the Lord

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➤ Principles

- P2#: Personal and corporate self-evaluation (cont'd)
 - Self can easily consume glory away from the Lord
 - Guarding against such covert self is a must
 - On occasion, self examination may be prolonged for the purpose of cultivating & verifying genuineness of heart

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➤ Principles

- P2#: Practical Implications (cont'd)
 - Musical accompaniment and spiritual songs are not eliminated; but we remove central musical leadership and accompaniment to preserve attention to Christ
 - Missing: Physical leader so as to not rob attention from Christ
 - Meal: Love feast has been converted to a time of only remembrance and appetites are dealt with at home

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➤ Principles

■ P#3: Other doctrines of God

- Doctrines of Christ: Headship of the church local/universal, divinely authorized expressed through gender roles & head covering (1 Cor 11.2-16, 14.34-35, 1 Tim 2.12); no “chairman”
- Doctrine of the Holy Spirit:
 - ✓ Who leads the body in correct direction (Acts 13.2)
 - ✓ Unto Christ (Jn 15.26)
 - ✓ In unity (Eph 4.3): Thus, cohesive and harmonious in our thoughts to God

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➤ Principles

- P#3: Other doctrines of God (cont'd)

- Doctrine of the New Creation:

- ✓ Priests who are tasked to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God (1 Pt 2.5)
 - ✓ Gifting(s): Expression of such will be through the gifting God has given—some serving gift/some speaking gift (1 Pt 4.10)

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➤ Principles

- P#3: Other doctrines of God (cont'd)
 - Doctrine of God: Peace/order (1 Cor 14.26-33, 40)
 - ✓ No precise order in the NT, but order is important (33, 40)
 - ✓ Saints prepared: “You come together, each has a psalm ...teaching...tongue...revelation...interpretation” (26a)
 - ✓ Saints built up: As above, in remembering Him (26b)
 - ✓ Saints use gifts: E.g., Tongue speakers/interpreters/prophets, etc. are exercising their gifts (27-29a)

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➤ Principles

- P#3: Other doctrines of God (cont'd)
 - Doctrine of God: Order (1 Cor 14.26-33,40), cont'd
 - ✓ Other Saints: Listening and evaluating (29b)
 - ✓ Spontaneous Saints prepared: One may have a thought through the Spirit and is given opportunity to share as the first speaker becomes silent—(30b-31a)
 - ✓ Saints Edified: in remembering Him (26b, 31b)

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➤ Principles

- P#3: Other doctrines of God (cont'd)
 - Doctrine of God: Order (1 Cor 14.26-33, 40), cont'd
 - ✓ Saints are orderly: E.g., Limits with tongue gifts with the stipulation of interpreters (27-28)
 - ✓ Saints express themselves one by one—i.e. gifts not out of control, but under control—Implying maximum body benefit (31)
 - ✓ In short: Gifts are not meant for show

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➤ Summary

- The purpose: Remembrance & its resultant worship is to glorify God
- The primary thing: Christ in his person and work
- The procedure: Healthy personal & corporate self-examination
- The process: We evaluate whether the things we do will maximally bring attention to Christ or rob attention from Christ
- The proclamation: It is of Christ and His doctrines which are simultaneously displayed
- The point: Worship in spirit and truth (Jn 4.21-24)

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Steve Price