

# I Cor 11:17-13:13

## Corinthians, Session Eight

### **Don't Let Differences Undermine Worship (11:17-22)**

“There seems to have been a peculiarly callous insensitivity to the physical needs of those with very little, almost to the point of humiliating them. When they came together, there was no sense of being one with the Lord. Each group kept to itself. The food brought was not shared in a common pool, but enjoyed his/her own provisions. Some managed even to get drunk. The arrangements emphasized the divisions in the church at Corinth, not their fellowship” (p. 187).

The problem: Corinthians showed favoritism, division and selfishness in the meal. No oneness. “For them the death of Christ was not central; the return of Christ was not dominant; the love of Christ was not in control. It was, in a word, not ‘the Lord’s Supper’” (p. 188).

Does this attitude invalidate the Lord’s Supper? Why or why not?

### **Remember What the Lord’s Supper Really Is (11:23-34)**

#### **EUCCHARIST + AGAPE**

Looks back at:

Looks forward to:

“When Paul talks of anyone who eats the bread and drinks the cup unworthily as guilty of profaning the body and blood of Christ, the word profaning is gratuitous and actually reduces the gravity of the offense. Essentially you become guilty of shedding the blood of Christ: *ie*, you place yourself not in the company of those who are sharing in the benefits of his passion, but in the company of those who are responsible for his crucifixion” (p. 189).

Earlene’s song: *“Take an honest look inside and you’ll see the sin that crucified him  
Then, and only then, true worship will begin.”*

### **Each Believer Is Gifted (12:1-11)**

Corinthians regarded any mystical or supernatural experience as a sign that authenticated a particular deity. Without a sign, the deity was suspect.

What is the earliest Christian creed? What did it mean to them?

Comment: “To be truly ‘spiritual’ drives a person...into the life of the local church as an expression of his personal commitment to Jesus a Lord and to his body on earth...To distance ourselves from other Christians is to waver in our allegiance to Jesus as Lord” (p. 195).

“In the church there is a rich diversity both of people and of gifts. There are many members in this body and each member is different. No person, no gift is a replica of another. God never \_\_\_\_\_, that is Satan’s nature, when he attempts to mimic all the good gifts of God with his counterfeits” (p. 196).

Note the Trinitarian framework in v. 4-6. What is each person's primary work?

The gifts are \_\_\_\_\_ ; the benefit is \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7, 11)

"The Spirit delights in this variety and Paul endorses this by the phrase 'the same Spirit', which he repeats in v. 4, 8, 9, 11. Thus it is true equally that the Spirit never imitates himself and that the Spirit never contradicts himself" (p. 209).

### **The Unity Is in Diversity (12:12-31)**

God apportioned (v. 11)

God arranged (v. 18)

God composed (v. 24)

God appointed (v. 28)

1 Cor. 12:8-11 + Rom. 12:6-8 + Eph. 4:7-11 + 1 Peter 4:7-11 = \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual gifts

What good is a spiritual gift if it is not realized or demonstrated?

"In order to accomplish his work on earth, Jesus had a body made of flesh and blood. In order to accomplish his work today, Jesus has a body that consists of living human beings."

*We need one another (15-16, 21) We differ one another (17-20) We care for one another (22-26)*

"Each individual grows as a person and as a Christian in direct relation to his finding his place as a member of the body. The Scriptures speak of individuality, not individualism" (p. 216).

What is the connection or order between apostles, prophets and teachers (v. 28)?

### **The Greatest Gift of All (13:1-13)**

Why does this chapter not properly belong in a wedding setting? In other words, why should this chapter be read in context of the rest of the letter?

"God cannot use the loveless Christian for his glory...The Corinthians clearly thought the possessors of certain gifts were extremely important persons...Not only are they unimportant, they are actually *nothing*" (p. 228-9).

Gongs (pieces of copper) / cymbals (single-toned) were neither pleasant to listen to nor could they produce \_\_\_\_\_. They were commonly heard on the streets in Corinth to invoke a god, drive away demons, rouse worshippers. Such racket! Paul knows this sound.

Why is it significant that Paul uses verbs to describe love (4-7)?

What is a mirror (v. 12) made from?

"If the Corinthians majored on tongues, prophecy and knowledge, Paul focuses attention on faith, hope and love. These three qualities are the ones which abide" (p. 234). Recall in 8:1 that "love builds up." Why is love endless? Why is love the greatest?