

First Wednesday slide
Ripple Effect slide

“It could be worse ...”

1 Corinthians 11:17

Now in giving this instruction I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but **for the worse**.

{one slide}

- Verse 27: *“unworthy manner”*
- Verse 29: *“without recognizing ... [brings] judgement ...”*

1 Corinthians 10:16

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a **sharing** in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a **sharing** in the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 9:23

... I do all this because of the gospel, so that I may **share in the blessings**.

1 Peter 3:18a

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might **bring you to God**.

Communion with God is the goal of creation and God’s purpose in redemption.

Communion with God is *“the definition of Christianity.”* {J.I. Packer}

Communion:

God communicating/presenting Himself to us in holy love and us responding in faith and with joy to Him and His offer of fellowship.

What could be worse?

Going through the **motions** but **missing** God.

1 Corinthians 11:18-22

For to begin with, I hear that when you come together as a church there are **divisions** among you, and in part I believe it. Indeed, it is necessary that there be factions among you, so that those who are approved may **be recognized** among you. When you come together, then, it is

not to eat the Lord's Supper. For at the meal, each one eats his own supper. So one person is hungry while another gets drunk! Don't you have homes in which to eat and drink? Or do you **despise the church of God** and **humiliate** those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I do not praise you in this matter!

The Corinthians:

- The Lord's Supper no longer reflected their need for Jesus and His achievement.
- Instead, it was being used to self-promote and segregate.

1) Marvel at the **self-giving love** of Christ.

Enemy at the Table: **Social status** (human approval; fear of people; comparison)

{come up one at a time}

Two Things Satan Seeks to Do with Grace:

- 1) Make it seem **unremarkable**
- 2) Make it seem **unavailable**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I **received** from the Lord what I also **passed** on to you: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in **remembrance** of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the **new covenant** in **My blood**. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you **proclaim** the Lord's death **until** He comes.

{Same slide but come up one at a time}

Lord's Supper:

- **Objective, historical factual truth**
- **Remember what He has done**
- **Celebrate the new covenant**
- **Proclaim the Gospel**
- **Anticipate future grace (hope)**

Christ's Presence: past, present and future

We never graduate from the Gospel.

The Lord's Supper—properly observed—brings gospel renewal to individual Christ-followers and their Church community.

- We communion with God in Christ by faith through the Holy Spirit.

Enemy at the Table: **Cheap grace**

1 Corinthians 1:27-28

So, then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner** will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person **examine** himself; in this way let him **eat** the bread and **drink** from the cup.

Unworthy manner does not mean unworthy person.

Paul:

examine yourself not for perfection, but for recognition of the need of Christ's perfection

- **Where is blood bought, costly grace needed?**
- **How can I celebrate what Christ has done and provided at great cost to Himself?**

2) Embrace the call for serious self-examination

Enemy at the Table: religious spirit

Enemy at the Table: hurry

1 Corinthians 11:29-32

For whoever eats and drinks **without recognizing the body**, eats and drinks judgment on himself. This is why many are sick and ill among you, and many have fallen asleep. If we were **properly judging ourselves**, we would not be judged, but when we are judged by the Lord, we are **disciplined**, so that we may not be condemned with the world.

→ What's worse than "early" death?

Continuing in sin and sinful patterns

1 Corinthians 11:33-34

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, **welcome one another**. If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you gather together you will not come under judgment. I will give instructions about the other matters whenever I come.

3) Marvel at the miracle of the Church → Reflect the self-giving love of Christ to others.

Enemy at the Table: Unpursued reconciliation

1 Corinthians 11:28

Let a person examine himself; in this way let him eat the bread and drink from the cup.