

Recap of 3/5/17 (1 Corinthians 11:17-34):

1. In 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Paul instructs the church at Corinth in the correct attitude toward the Lord's Supper. His words have been interpreted in various ways over the centuries, especially concerning partaking unworthily and examining ourselves in conjunction with partaking of the Lords Supper. His words have most often been misinterpreted. The Lords Supper is presented as a time to agonize over our sin and to "clean up our act." But is that what it means to examine ourselves and to partake in an unworthy manor?
2. The abuse of the Lords Supper at Corinth did not involve just any sin but especially the sin of not recognizing the unity of the Body of Christ, the church. The Corinthian's were using the Lords Supper to exploit their differences, socially, economically, and spiritually. The church met in homes which at most could hold 30-50 people. The upper classes got more and better food, while the poor got little or no food. Instead of unifying the church, it was fracturing the church. This is the sin Paul warns them about. It's what they needed to examine themselves for.
3. "We must be clear about one thing. The phrase which forbids a man to eat and drink unworthy does not shut out the man who is a sinner and knows it." (Barclay) ""So every person should examine his attitude toward those with whom he is about to share in this most intimate fellowship before he eats or drinks. For if the Corinthian's do not sense themselves, or within their previous behavior toward those around them, a genuine affirmation of unity, or a willingness to affirm unity, then they are failing to recognize the body of the Lord."" (Davis)
4. We observe the Lords Supper because:
 - It is commanded by the Lord
 - It is precious to the Lord
 - It is essential to the unity of the Body of Christ
5. The Lords Supper is a memorial much like the festivals or monuments of the Old Testament which were meant to remind Israel of some important events. In this way it connected them with those who went before and unchanging truth. "In the Lords Supper we are present at the cross and testify to it." (Richards) The Lords Supper is a reminder that Jesus Christ gave His body, and shed His blood, in our place, for our sin, that we might have eternal life through faith in Him.