

1 Corinthians 11:21, NIV – “(21) *for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk.*”

#### 4. I Eat In An Unworthy Manner If I Come With Any Attitude Of Superiority Towards Another Person

1 Corinthians 11:29, NIV – “(29) *For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*”

Colossians 1:24, NIV – “... *Christ's ... body ... is the church.*”; 1 Corinthians 12:27, NIV – “Now *you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*”

Luke 18:11-13, NIV – “(11) *The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: God, I thank you that I am not like other men -- robbers, evildoers, adulterers -- or even like this tax collector. (12) I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' (13) But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*”

- When we celebrate the Lord's supper, God isn't nearly so concerned about the sin that is in us, as He is the sin which flows through us, toward others

Matthew 5:23-24, NIV – (23) “*Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, (24) leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*”

- We should examine ourselves, but the focus of the examination is on how we're doing with the rest of the body of Christ

#### 5. The Essence Of The Word “Unworthy” Is “To Not Attribute The Full Weight Of Significance”

1 Corinthians 11:29-30, NASB – “*For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.*”

- “Worthy” (Greek = “oxios”) = “of worth” – “true worth or significance”
- Remember**, we celebrate today, not under the guilt of condemnation, but in the joy of anticipation, of what Jesus has promised He has for us!

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

### A Celebration Of Joy And Provision

David Hibbert – October 23, 2005

#### IT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 Corinthians 11:17-22, NIV – (17) *In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. (18) In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. (19) No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. (20) When you come together, **it is not the Lord's Supper you eat,** (21) for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. *One remains hungry, another gets drunk.* (22) *Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!**

#### ARE WE EATING THE LORD'S SUPPER?

##### 1. Division / Dissension

- If a body of believers allows division and dissension into its midst, they aren't celebrating the Lord's supper

##### 2. Inconsideration / Self-Centredness

- If a body of believers does not show proper consideration to one another, their ritual is worthless

#### DRUNKENESS AT THE LORD'S SUPPER?

1 Corinthians 11:21, NIV – “(21) *for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk.*”

- In the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the Lord's Supper was originally very festive, with strong elements of joy and rejoicing.
- In the Hebrew culture, when they have a time of remembrance, the idea is not so much a re-celebration of an event itself, it is a re-enactment of the implications of the event
- God is not out to make us feel bad, and try to motivate us to holiness, through guilt and condemnation, He wants to encourage us toward victorious living, through remembering and celebrating His kindness and goodness

Romans 2:4, NIV – "... *God's kindness leads you toward repentance.*"

## WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

1 Corinthians 11:23-26, NIV – (23) *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." (26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

- The Lord's supper is a representation of Jesus' body & blood (vs. 24)
- The Lord's supper is a recollection of what Jesus did for us (vs. 24)
- The Lord's supper is a declaration of Jesus' new covenant with us (vs. 25)
- The Lord's supper is a proclamation of Jesus' death for us (vs. 26)
- The Lord's supper is an exhortation of Jesus' return (vs. 26)
  
- The essence of the Lord's Supper is to bring back into focus, back into the centre of our vision, what Jesus did for us
  
- "The ground is level at the cross", there is no greater sinner and lesser sinner, no greater Christian and lesser Christian, there is only self-ish humanity, and a self-less Saviour

## THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### 1. Life Is Received When We Partake Of Jesus

John 6:48-51, NIV "(48) *I am the bread of life. (49) Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. (50) This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. (51) I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh.*"

John 1:12, NIV – "... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

### 2. Life Comes Only As We Partake Of Jesus

John 6:53, NIV – "Jesus said to them, 'I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.'"

- His life comes to us, because AS we partake of the emblems, we open up our hearts to the fresh work of His Holy Spirit

### 3. Life Is Brought To Us By The Holy Spirit

John 6:63, NIV – "*The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*"

### 4. The Lord's Supper Is For Restoration And Strengthening

- A very important part of the Lord's supper, was to provide for us restoration and strengthening

## HOW DO WE EAT AND DRINK IN A WORTHY MANNER?

1 Corinthians 11:27-32, NIV – "(27) *Therefore, 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. (28) A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. (29) For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. (30) That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. (31) But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. (32) When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world".*

### 1. It Can't Be That Those Who Are Living Better Are Worthy

Isaiah 64:6, NIV – "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags ..."

Revelation 1:5, NIV – "... To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood."

- If the prerequisite for partaking of the Lord's Supper was our own righteousness, then no one in this room should be allowed

### 2. I Eat In An Unworthy Manner If I Am Allowing Any Bitterness Or Resentment In My Heart To Another Person

1 Corinthians 11:18, NIV – "For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part, I believe it."

### 3. I Eat In An Unworthy Manner If I Am Exhibiting Any Inconsideration Or Self-Centredness Toward Another Person