



I Cor. 11:23-32

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23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

The Apostle Paul followed the commands of Jesus Christ. His apostolic authority in the church was given to him by Jesus and his apostolic instructions to the church were based on the teachings and commands of Jesus.

One of those commands was what Paul called the Lord's Supper in I Cor. 11:20. It was also called the breaking of bread, the cup of blessing, the communion of the blood of Christ, the communion of the body of Christ, and the table of the Lord.

The Lord's supper was a memorial. It commemorated the sacrifice Jesus made so that God could institute a new covenant of grace with mankind.

The word covenant simply means agreement. The goal of a covenant is to bestow a blessing.

All covenants have terms to receive the blessing.

The terms of the old covenant God made with the Jews was keep the law of Moses. The blessing was land, descendants, and prosperity.

The terms of the new covenant God made with mankind was receive Jesus Christ as your savior and Lord.

The blessings of the new covenant include...

- [Justification \(Romans 5:16-18\)](#)

Justification is forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness of sins means God's record of your sins is expunged. Your record is wiped clean.

Forgiveness of sins also means God will not keep a new record of our sins even though we continue to be sinners. Justification means you are not guilty. Justification means you are no longer the object of God's condemnation and wrath.

- [Sanctification \(1 Cor. 1:30-31\)](#)

Sanctification means to be made holy. How does God make us holy?

2 Cor. 5:21

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

NKJV

God adds the righteousness of Christ to our eternal record and this makes us holy.

Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. It is the reason that He could atone for our sins as the God man.

When we receive Jesus, His righteousness is credited to our record, never to be erased. Based on God's covenant sealed with the blood of Jesus, we are eternally justified and eternally sanctified.

- [Heaven \(John 14:1-3\)](#)

Just as Jesus was promised resurrection from the dead and eternal life in heaven, we are promised resurrection from the dead and eternal life in heaven.

- [Holy Spirit \(Matt. 3:11; Acts 2:38\)](#)

Matt. 3:11

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

NKJV

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

NKJV

When we receive Jesus, we are baptized with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God. When we receive Jesus, the Holy Spirit unites with our spirit. We are raised spiritually from death unto life. (Eph. 2:6).

- We receive a new nature. (2 Peter 1:4).
- We receive the power of the Spirit (Acts 1:8)
- We receive the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12)

We are a new creation. (2 Cor. 5:17).

As a new creation, it is our nature to love Jesus and others, to serve others, and to live a righteous life. (1 John 3:10).

The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5). Sin is painful. It is painful to us and painful to others. It injures us and it injures others. Sin is the antithesis of loving God, loving ourselves, and loving others. Because we have received the Holy Spirit we don't want to hurt others. We want to love others. We want to serve others. We want to live righteously.

We still have a choice but because of our union with the Holy Spirit to choose to sin is to choose to go against God's nature and our nature. There is no one more miserable with themselves than the person who is not being true to who they are.

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When we come to the Lord's table we are remembering these blessings and the sacrifice Jesus made to give us these blessings.

The bread represents his body that was broken. The wine represents His blood that was shed. We are proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes.

The church at Corinth had a serious problem. (1 Cor. 11:17-22).

1 Cor. 11:17-22

17 Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. 20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. 21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 22

What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

NKJV

They observed the Lord's Supper during a regular meal that they shared with one another in the church. These meals were called love feasts. When they came together to eat their love feasts, the love was missing.

There were those at the love feast who were selfish. It appears that they were bringing a feast to the love feast but they were not willing to share their feast with everyone. This was causing the church disgrace and it was embarrassing to those who were being left out. Some were feeling disgraced and dishonored. It was adding to the divisions that existed in the church.

Apparently some had expected Paul to praise them for doing this.

Instead Paul prophesied and said...

1 Cor. 11:27-34

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. 33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

NKJV

Paul prophesied that this blatant act of hypocrisy was shameful and irreverent and was causing the Lord to chasten some of them. They were eternally secure but they were not free from the temporary chastening of the Lord. God is a loving Father who chastens His children.

Heb. 12:5-7

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives."

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

NKJV

God is a loving and responsible father. A loving and responsible father disciplines his children when they are selfish and immature. This is also true with our heavenly Father.

Life is difficult. If you want to make your life more difficult as a child of God, remain immature and live selfishly. Not every illness is God's chastening but apparently there are times when God chastens His children with illness and even death when they are selfish. If you want to know if your illness is the Lord's chastening, call for the elders of the church to help you discern the Lord's will. (James 5:14-17)

James 5:14-17

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. NKJV

Peter said we were not redeemed with perishable things like silver and gold but with the precious blood of Jesus. (1 Peter 1:17-19).

In Hebrews living selfishly and willfully sinning against others is considered trampling the blood of Jesus under our feet. We know how God felt about the Jews who rejected the law of Moses. How do you think He feels about the blood of His Son being trampled?

Redemption from sin came at a great price to God the Son. We are redeemed by His blood. To live selfishly is to treat His blood with contempt. It is like stomping on the American flag and showing contempt for the thousands of American soldiers who have shed their blood for our freedom.

Heb. 10:28-29

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Being aware of our sin and our sinful motives is a gift from God and a work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. After we receive Jesus, this awareness is progressive as we grow in our understanding of the Word of God and the righteousness of God.

But living selfishly and injuring others after the truth has been revealed to us is a serious matter.

What should we do?

Paul said to those in the church at Corinth, if you are going to live selfishly than live selfishly at home. If you don't want to share what you have than eat it at home. Don't subject others to the pain and the shame of your selfishness and sin against them.

What is even better is to repent of your selfishness.

Repentance means to change your course. Repentance begins with Godly sorrow when we see what our sin is doing to Christ, His kingdom, and to others. When we experience this Godly sorrow it is a blessing.

If you are experiencing Godly sorrow, then you need to confess you have been selfish and confess your sins to God and to others. Confession sounds like this.
"I was wrong."

When God makes us aware of our sin, He wants us to confess our sin rather than cover it.

[Prov. 28:13](#)

[13 He who covers his sins will not prosper,
But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.
NKJV](#)

Confession of sin to God and to one another is always the beginning of any change we need to make in our motives and our actions.

Unconfessed sin grieves the Holy Spirit and is a hindrance to personal revival and revival in the body of Christ.

[Eph. 4:29-32](#)

[29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
NKJV](#)

We should ask God to show us our selfishness and our sins. We should then be transparent with Him and with one another about our sin issues.

As we prepare for the Lord's Supper today, will you examine yourself?

Have you been selfish and sinned against your family, your church family, or others? Before you come to the Lord's table will you confess your sinful motives and sinful actions? Will you receive prayer for strength to change?

As we prepare for the Lord's Supper today, will you examine yourself to see if you are in the faith? Are you a child of God? Do you need to receive Jesus?
Will you receive Him right now?