Corruption Of The Lord's Supper
1 Cor. 11:20-34

Introduction:
A. Lord’s Supper — a great weekly memorial service.
B. Corinthians turned Lord's Supper into a disaster.
C. Paul deals with the problem in two stages:
   1. He describes the problem.
   2. He recommends the solution.

Discussion:
I. The Problem.
A. The Nature and extent of the problem.
   1. Apparently turned Lord's Supper into a gluttonous/drunken party. (vv. 20,21).
   2. Possibly influenced by pagan feasts. (cf. 1 Cor. 10:14-22).
   3. Likely each doing his own thing. (v. 21).
B. The consequences of the problem.
   1. Division — rich vs. poor. (17-22).
   2. Impossible to eat the Lord's Supper. (v. 20 ASV).
   3. Brought judgment upon themselves. (vv. 30-32).
      a. Possibly physical judgment or chastisement. (v. 32; cf.Acts 5:1ff; Rev.2:22,23)
      b. Surely spiritual judgment. (v. 27).

II. The Solution.
A. Show respect for the dignity of the Lord’s Supper. (vv. 27-29).
B. Show respect for the origin of the Lord’s Supper. (vv. 23-25).
C. Show respect for the elements of the Lord's supper. (vv. 23-26)
   1. “Cup” is the “fruit of vine” — the thing drunk. (1 Cor. 10:21; 11:25, 26).
   2. “Bread” = unleavened bread — only kind in houses at Passover. (Ex. 12:15,19)
   3. Each symbolic of body and blood — not literally.
      a. This is body ... blood.”
      b. Other examples of symbolism:
         (1) “Seed is the word of God”. (Lk. 8:11)
         (2) “I am door” (John 10:9).
         (3) “I am vine...you are branches”. (John 15:5).
D. Show respect for the purpose of the Lord's Supper.
   1. Not to satisfy physical hunger. (vv. 22,34).
   2. To remember Lord's death until he comes. (vv. 24-26).
E. Show respect for the place of the Lord's supper.
   1. Place for common meal is “at home” (vv. 22,34).
   2. Place of Lord's supper is in church assembly on Sunday. (vv. 18, 20, 33; cf. Acts 20:7).

Conclusion:
A. By applying the solution they would solve problem and prevent recurrence.
B. By applying the solution they would restore Lord's supper to rightful place.