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.