

**Desiring the Kingdom**  
**Worship, Worldview and Cultural Formation**

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After reading the chapters, the basic point which came to mind was the point regarding the Lord's Supper. The questions which arose in my mind who are worthy to participate into this sacrament and what Paul had to write or warn the people of Corinth and applicable to us today.

Paul talks about a major issue regarding the gathering of the people as a church. The meal that was supposed to be a sign of their integration and unity, proved to be a cause discrimination among the people. The meeting took place in a wealthier member's home, where the rich were made to sit in the dining rooms and were served the best of food and drinks. The poor people were just squeezed into other accommodations and were served the left overs. Slaves, who were often the last ones to arrive, had nothing left to eat. <sup>1</sup>

The segregations was not just between the rich and poor, but was also between religious backgrounds, educational attainment, and political skills. There was a lot of competitive spirit within the church. Paul, states that this assembly was a complete waste of time, it brought more harm than good to the church. <sup>2</sup>

He strongly opposed this meeting because it defies God's Purpose of bringing His people together and completely contradicted what the Lord's Supper proclaimed; Christ giving his life for all the people, regardless of who they were. <sup>3</sup>

Paul also says that even though we all are unworthy of the Lord's Supper, we can still partake in this sacrament if we examine our self and understand the true meaning of it. We should humble our self in the house of the Lord. All are invited and are

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<sup>1</sup> Blomberg, Craig. *1 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 1994

<sup>2</sup> Johnson, Alan F. *1 Corinthians*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2004. 211

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 212-213

distinguished guests at the table of the Lord. He warns people not to come together to judge and rank each other in any way. People who come in the house of the Lord to show that they are superior to the others, will be severely judged by the Lord at the end.<sup>4</sup>

Christians commemorate the crucifixion, looking back to Christ's Last Supper even as we anticipated his return, looking forward to the Messianic banquet (Isa 25:6-9; 65:13; Matt.22-1-14). This should be revealed in the present fellowship and people should seek larger numbers into the fellowship by the evangelistic function of the Lord's table. Paul suggest that proclamation does not have to be verbalized at all times, the ritual itself proclaims the Lord's death.

The final conclusion for the church is that everyone should examine themselves, so that they are able to partake righteously in the Lord's Supper It is an examination that is to prevent "unworthy" eating and drinking and is to clear away that which impedes the observance of the supper. The purpose of this self-examination is further elaborated in verse 31.

The intention here was not to make anybody think whether or not they can partake in the meal, but was to make sure that people self-examine themselves before they become a part of the fellowship.

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<sup>4</sup> Blomberg, Craig. *1 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 1994.235

## Bibliography

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