

## RELATED SCRIPTURES

Exodus 12:7–14 | Isaiah 53:1–12 | Mark 14:22–23

## STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 03.30.25

### SUMMARY

In 1 Corinthians 11, the apostle Paul is providing an explanation for the Church on taking the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner. How should we, biblically, approach the Table of the Lord? It's important to note that Paul essentially scolds the church in this passage. In fact, most of 1 Corinthians is a stern letter to this particular church who, overall, were doing anything but behaving like a church. They were engaged in conduct unbecoming of followers of Jesus in many areas, but Paul reserved a special word for them about taking communion. The church was observing the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner" (v. 27). How does one take the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner? Paul instructs that one must "discern the body" to eat and drink the Supper properly. In other words, we don't come to the Table because we deserve it or because we have earned a right to be there; if this were the case, no one would qualify to take the Lord's Supper. Instead, Paul tells us to "examine ourselves" (v. 28) to understand this sacrament's gospel message. It was the occasion of the Passover that marked the exodus of God's people from their oppressors, where Jesus assigned new meaning to elements of the meal—the bread to represent his body and the wine to represent his blood. It was with his body and blood that Jesus would lead his people on a new exodus by way of the cross. Just as the Red Sea was the means of deliverance for God's people in the first exodus, providing safe passage for God's people and judgment for Pharaoh's armies, the cross would be the means of the second exodus. The cross would be a means of deliverance for God's people, yet a vehicle of judgment for the just punishment of sin. So, when we approach the Table, we must remember the suffering of Jesus, who gave his body and blood to deliver us. Paul tells us that if we forget, overlook, or minimize the remembrance of Christ, who suffered for our sake, we commit a grave error. Let us, as Jesus instructs, "Do this in remembrance of me."

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of 1 Corinthians 11:20–32.

What are your initial impressions when you read Paul telling the church not to observe the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner"? Based on what you understand of the scriptures, how do we take the Supper in a worthy manner?

What are some practical ways to personally make the most of the time you spend observing the Lord's Supper?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.