

## **LESSON 19: 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-12:11**

### **When You Gather Together... (cont'd)**

1. At the time this letter was written, communion was celebrated during a common meal or “love feast,” and Paul now addresses the problem of improper conduct at these meetings (vv. 17-22). In verse 17 he declares that “in the following directives I have no praise for you.” Why (compare with v. 2)? How do you think the Corinthians Christians would have described their get-togethers? What abuses had crept into this celebration? What does Paul mean when he writes that “when you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat” (v. 20)? (Compare 2 Peter 2:13 and Jude 12.)
2. What is the purpose and significance of the Lord’s Supper (vv. 23-26)? What do you think is the significance of his writing that “I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you”? What does the bread mean to you as a believer in Christ? The cup? Why is it appropriate to refer to the sacrament as the Eucharist (“thanksgiving”) Communion? In what way is it similar to the Passover meal of the Old Testament? In what ways different? What is the key theological principle apart from which the Lord’s Supper may not be celebrated (see 1:22-24)?
3. Why then should the believer avoid participating in the Lord’s Supper in an “unworthy manner” (vv. 27-30)?
4. How can the believer participate in a “worthy manner” (vv. 28, 33-34)? What does Paul mean when he writes that “a man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup” (v. 28)? What should the believer who participates in the Lord’s Supper remember (vv. 24-25) and proclaim (v. 26)? Why is self-evaluation before participating in the Lord’s Supper important? How do you understand Paul’s warning that “anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself” (v. 29)? (See Hebrews 12:5-11.)

## Spiritual Gifts

1. What test does Paul give to help the Corinthians discern the spirits? (Compare 1 John 4:1-3.) In what areas of your life would this test be helpful?
  
2. In verses 4-6 Paul outlines three categories of “kinds” in the church. What are these three different kinds of things? But in what way are they the same? What is the point he’s making here?
  
3. What is your understanding of the gifts of the Spirit? To whom are they given? What does this tell you about the value of each person in the body of Christ? Are the gifts still operative? What is their purpose (v. 7)?
  
4. To whom are the gifts given (v. 7)? What does this say tell you about the value of each person in the body of Christ? What is/are yours? How is it contributing to the “common good” of Faith Church?
  
5. List the gifts of the Spirit that are referred to in this and other passages of Scripture (vv. 7-11; see also v. 28; Rom.12:6-8; Eph.4:11; and 1 Pet..4:10). What is Paul’s point in writing up this list (v. 11)? What gifts are most affirmed, and what gifts are not affirmed as applicable for today (i.e., in Faith Presbyterian Church)? Why?
  
6. What responsibility does possession of a spiritual gift of gifts place upon the believer? How should spiritual gifts be discovered, encouraged, and affirmed in the Church? What is/are yours? How is it contributing to the “common good” of Faith Church?