

Series: Why We Do What We Do

**Preparing for the Lord's Supper
1 Corinthians 11:27-34**

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1. For nearly 2000 years, Christians have assembled each Lord's Day to worship God.
2. On the night before His death, Jesus established the symbolic memorial that we know as the Lord's Supper.
3. This simple observance is a reminder of the event that established the Christian faith -- the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.
4. The key phrase is found in verse 28, "Let a man examine himself." There are at least three reasons everyone should examine himself before taking the Lord's Supper.
 - I. Unworthy Participation at the Lord's Table is an Offense to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:27-28, "Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."

 - A. What does it mean to eat the bread in an unworthy manner? (v. 27)
 - B. Let's consider some ways we might come to the Table "in an unworthy manner."
 1. RITUALISTICALLY
 2. LIGHTLY
 3. IGNORANCE
 4. BITTERNESS
 5. REBELLION
 - C. We are required to examine ourselves. V. 28, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."
 - II. Unworthy Participation at the Lord's Table Brings God's Discipline. 1 Corinthians 11:29-32, "For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."
 - A. The person who doesn't "examine himself" may take the Lord's Supper "in an unworthy manner."
 - B. Paul refers to an example of God's discipline. 1 Corinthians 11:30, "That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep."
 - C. In verse 31 Paul gives us a simple principle for avoiding the discipline of the Lord.
 1. "But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment."
 2. If we would repent of our sins, wrong attitudes, and divisive relationships, God would not have to judge us.
 3. This is why it is so important that we examine our own lives and make everything right with God and with others before we come to the Lord's Table.
 - III. Unworthy Participation at the Lord's Table is a Sin against the Church.

1 Corinthians 11:33, "So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other."

 - A. Paul was telling the Corinthians to be considerate of each other.
 - B. Part of being right with God is being right with other believers.