

# Memory Verse

**1 Corinthians 11:28**

**Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat  
of the bread and drink of the cup.**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

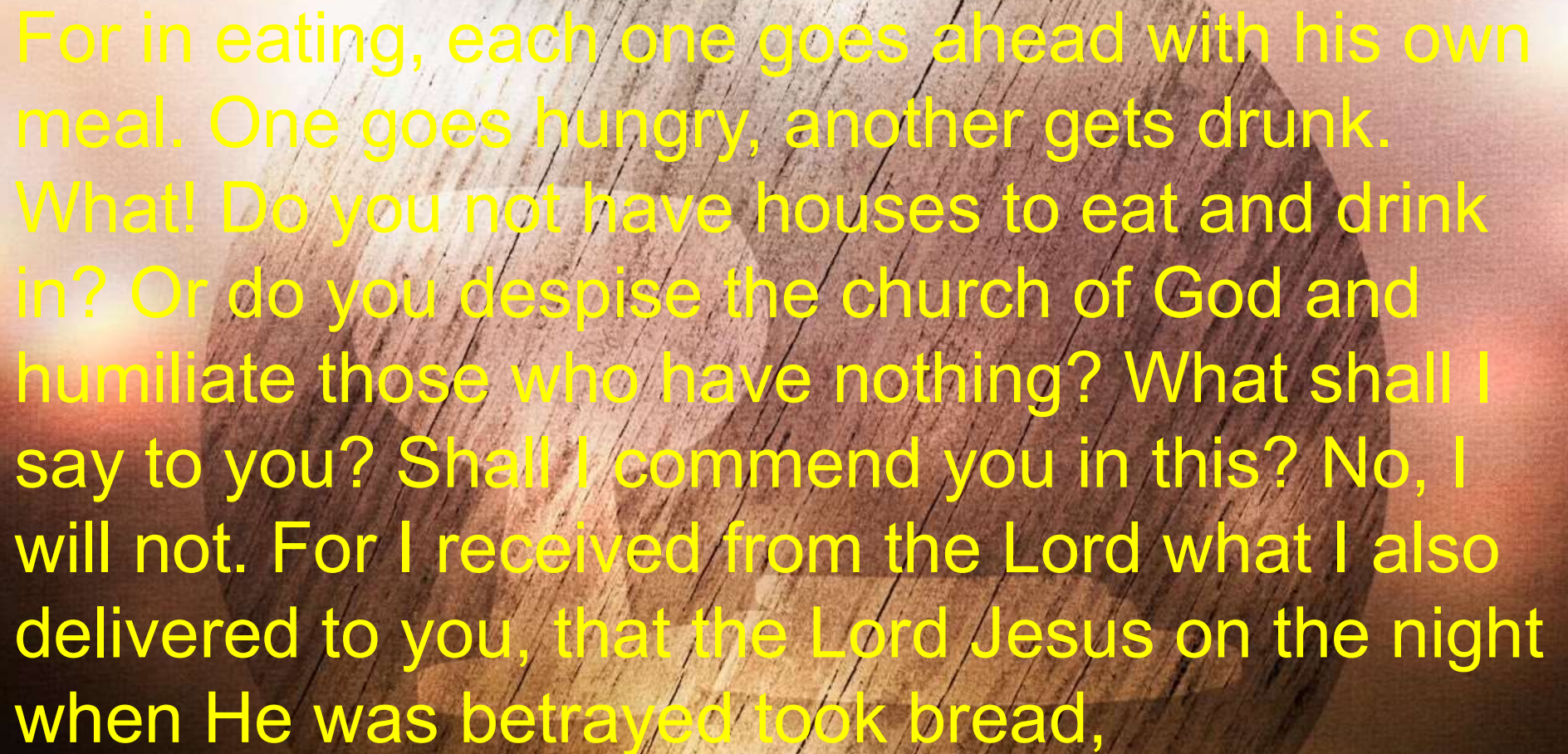
A circular wooden object, possibly a piece of wood or a small plaque, with a dark silhouette of a chalice (cup and host) in the center. The word "Communion" is written across the center in a white, cursive, 3D-style font.

*Communion*

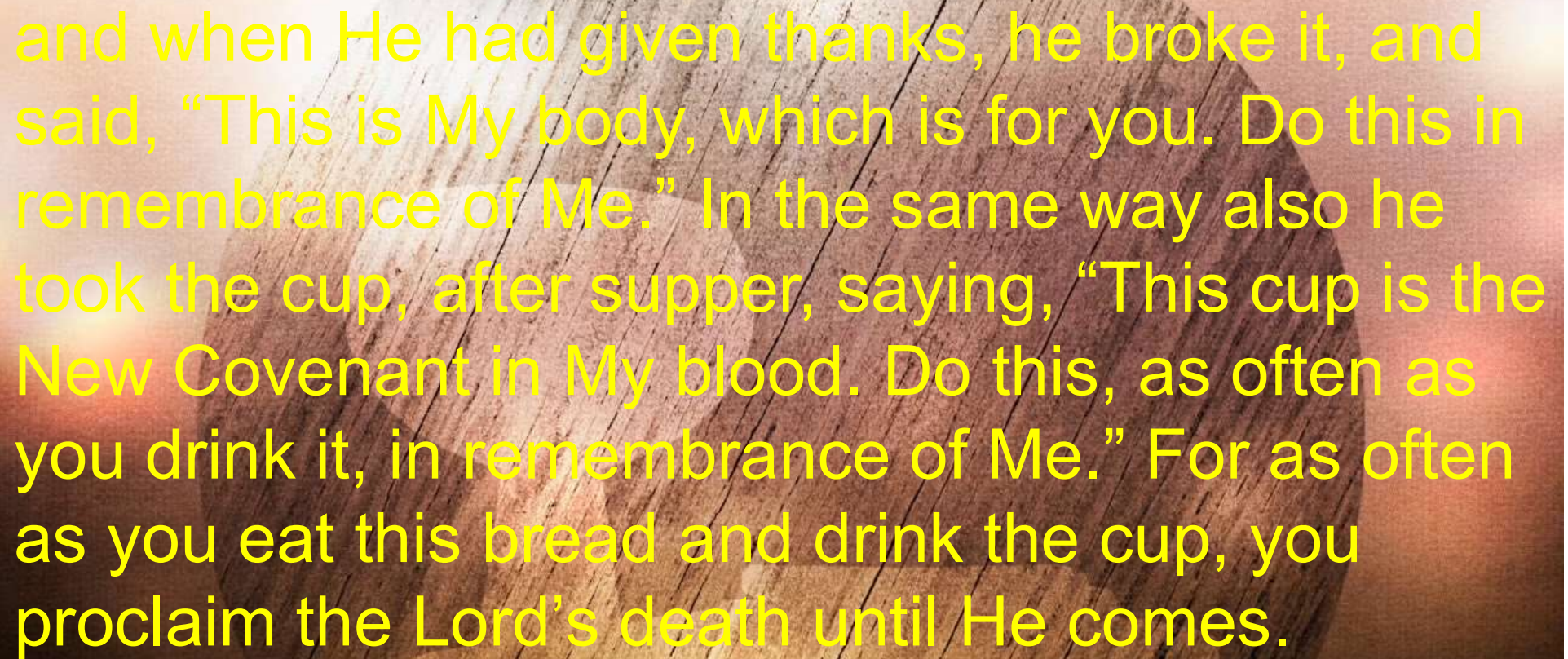
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE

**Examine Yourself**

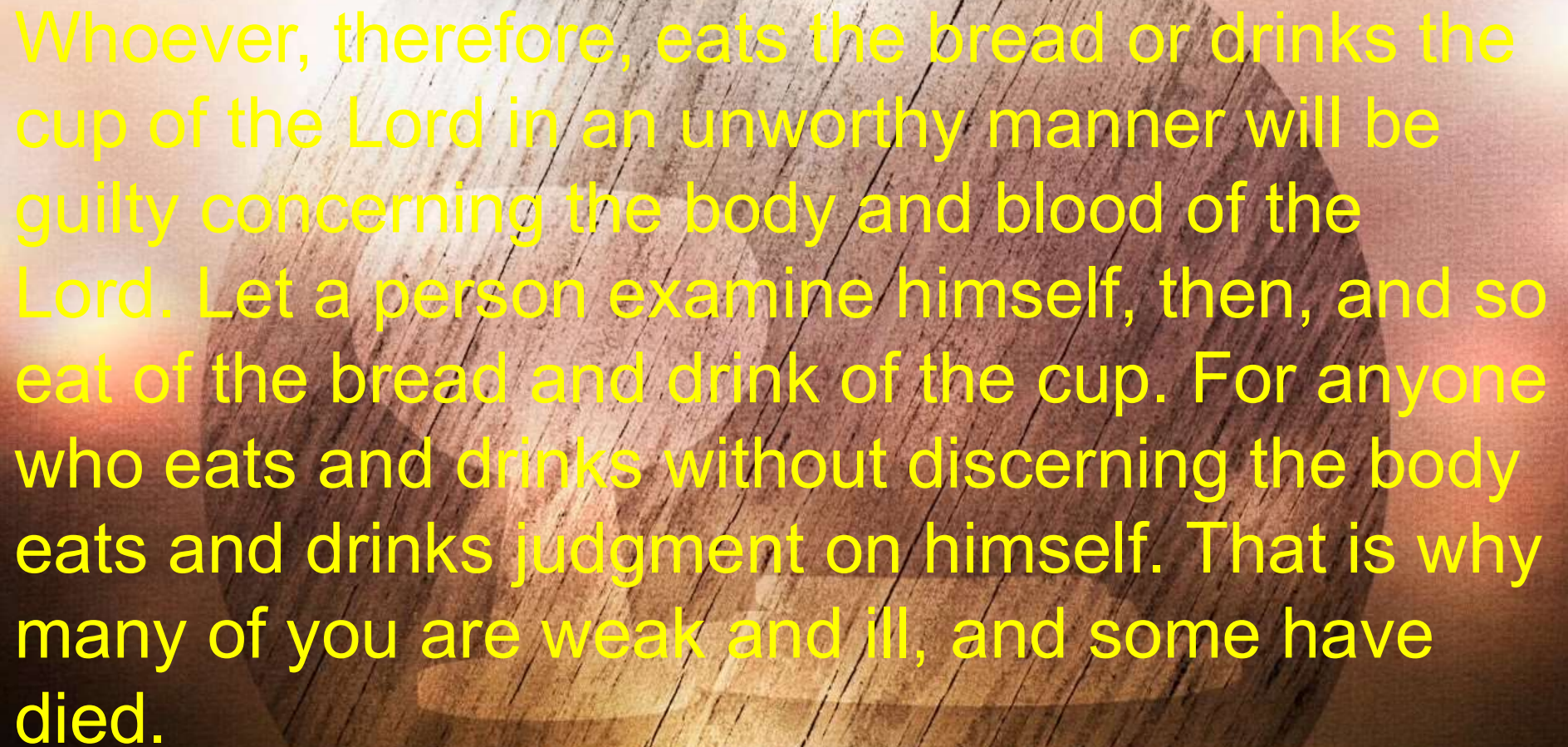
**1 Corinthians 11:17-32** - But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat.



For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not. For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread,



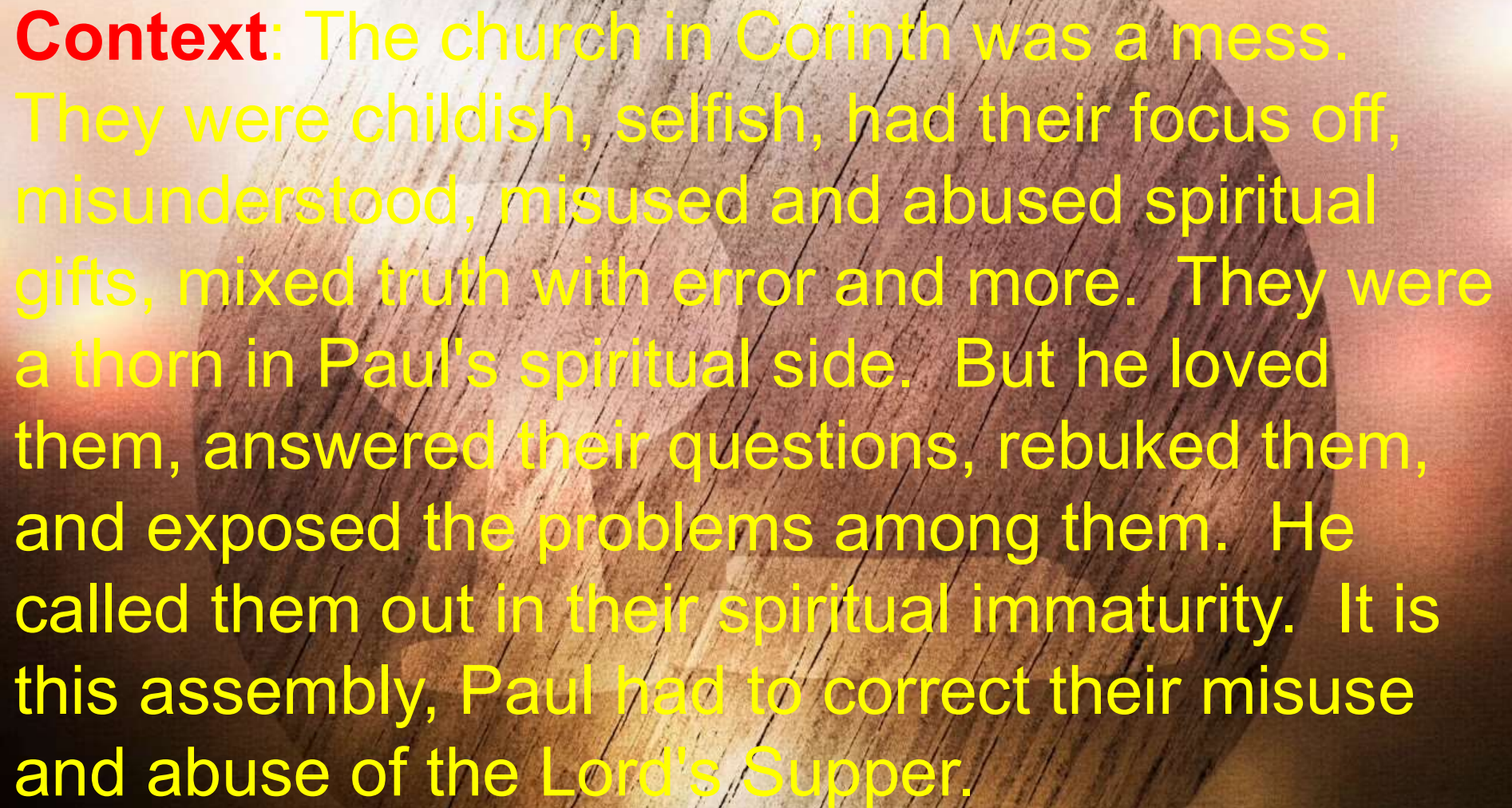
and when He had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.



Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.

The background of the slide is a circular wooden texture, possibly a cross-section of a tree trunk, showing natural grain patterns and knots. Overlaid on this texture is a faint, light-colored silhouette of a person sitting on a bench, facing right. The text is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image.

But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.



**Context:** The church in Corinth was a mess. They were childish, selfish, had their focus off, misunderstood, misused and abused spiritual gifts, mixed truth with error and more. They were a thorn in Paul's spiritual side. But he loved them, answered their questions, rebuked them, and exposed the problems among them. He called them out in their spiritual immaturity. It is this assembly, Paul had to correct their misuse and abuse of the Lord's Supper.



## A. 11:17-22 - The Church of the Lord

The word "*better*" refers to something "stronger, more excellent" as **contrasted** to "worse" which can refer to something "*less*."

In *verse 18* Paul focuses on the *divisions among them* when they came together. The word for "*divisions*" is "*schismata*." It means *to tear*, as in a garment, *rip* we could say, or *division*.

**1 Corinthians 3:1-4** - But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human [*fleshly, contrasted with spiritual*]?

## A. 11:17-22 - The Church of the Lord

Paul says there *had to be factions...* The word “*factions*” is where we get “*heresy*.” This is a *self-created opinion, group* and a *very subjective personal willing choice* they made. But why did there have to be these factions, dissections or different groups in the church? Paul tells us - so *that (purpose) those who are approved, tested, approved or true followers of Christ - may be evident among them.*

## A. 11:17-22 - The Church of the Lord

He mentions eating in *verse 21*, *eating his own meal*. This is probably an *individual* or *group* who ate their food without sharing it with the *poor in the church*, which he mentions in the middle of the verse. Then Paul refers to *some getting drunk*. For someone to get drunk in that day, required them to drink **A LOT!**

## A. 11:17-22 - The Church of the Lord

He lays gives a **massive rebuke** in verse 22: Or do you *despise* [*look down on, scorn, disregard, disdain, think little or nothing of*] the church of God and humiliate [*put to shame, disgrace*] those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

This was an honor/shame society and to *shame someone* was **very serious!**

## B. 11:23-26 - The Communion of the Lord

Paul begins his discussion on the *Lord's Supper*, *Lord's Table* or *Communion*. He says he *received from the Lord*. Maybe *the Lord directly revealed this to him* when he was in **Arabia** with the Lord. Perhaps he *knew what the Lord said*, recorded in the Gospels, when *Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper*.

## B. 11:23-26 - The Communion of the Lord

Jesus explained *what He meant by the bread - It was His body, broken for them, and us.* There has been and continues to be **debate** about what Jesus meant by "*this is my body,*" or the bread.

*As a memorial, the bread cannot literally be His body.* Jesus gives the **reason** behind breaking and partaking of the bread - *do it in remembrance of Him.*

## B. 11:23-26 - The Communion of the Lord

Then *Jesus took the cup*, and it probably was one cup they all shared and passed around. After they ate, He said *the cup was the New Covenant in His blood*.

The root word for covenant means "*to cut*," so two or more parties "*cut*" a covenant, which *usually involved a sacrifice*. Jesus gives *the sign of the New Covenant - His blood*.



## B. 11:23-26 - The Communion of the Lord

Like the bread, *He said to do this in remembrance of Him*. We drink the cup as a memorial. Verse 26 gives a *summary of the bread and cup*. We do it in remembrance of Him, until He returns. So, **this meal** is something we do in the present, remembering the past, and looking to the future, when He returns.

## C. 11:27-32 - The Caution of the Lord

The word for "unworthy" is only used here in the New Testament, and means unworthy. Those in *Corinth* were doing things that made them unworthy to partake of the meal, and they were doing this in an unworthy way, so both ideas may be included here? Those who *do this* will be **guilty**.

## C. 11:27-32 - The Caution of the Lord

The *Corinthians* sinned against one another in attitude and action. This was a *clear and specific offense against Jesus*, because *they were not considering what His death on the cross meant*. They blasphemed Christ because they *didn't take Communion seriously*, but flippantly partook of it, without examining themselves.

## C. 11:27-32 - The Caution of the Lord

*"Examine" means to "examine, scrutinize, put to the test, or prove." We don't do this for others in this case. One is to examine himself! How?*

**One**, *make sure you are a Christian. If you are not a follower of Jesus, do not partake of the bread and cup. If you do, you bring judgment and destruction upon yourself.*

## C. 11:27-32 - The Caution of the Lord

**Two**, if you are a *Christian*, are you walking with the Lord? Is there unrepented of **sin** *you know of in your life*? If you are living in willing sin as a believer, **do not partake of this meal.**

## C. 11:27-32 - The Caution of the Lord

The Corinthians *suffered the punishment of God* for not examining themselves and not taking this seriously. Verse 29 refers to *not discerning the body* - some say this is the church, or body of Christ, and some say this is the body of Jesus Himself.

Paul gave 3 results in their congregation in *verse 30*: **weakness, illness and death.**

## C. 11:27-32 - The Caution of the Lord

The *first 2 are similar*, and refer to being physically weak and sick. **Death** is *clear*! Some say *God doesn't make people sick*, but these verses [among others] contradict that. God *made some sick and took some to heaven* because of this **sin**. Some *translations use "sleep"* which was a figure of speech for death.

## C. 11:27-32 - The Caution of the Lord

Verse 31 uses 2 different words for "judge." The **first** - *judging ourselves* refers to ""to separate, make a distinction, discriminate or to distinguish or separate a person or thing from the rest, **prefer**, yield to him the preference or honor." The **second** word for "judge" also means to separate, but carries with it *imagery in a court of law*.



The *ESV Study Bible* notes: “When Christians rightly discern their sins and turn from them and seek forgiveness, then (as a general principle) they will not experience **God’s disciplinary judgment**. In specific application of this principle to the Corinthian situation, God would cease his discipline of the Corinthians if they would cease their misconduct regarding the Lord’s Supper. This verse thus teaches Christians not to think that God will somehow punish them for their whole lives for sins committed long ago, if they have sincerely asked forgiveness and made right what they can with those whom they have wronged.”

## C. 11:27-32 - The Caution of the Lord

In verse 32, if *the Lord*, in a court sense, *judges* us as the Corinthians were, it is **better** because, *the Father disciplines us for our good and for the benefit of the body of Christ*. It is good He judges us in this sense, so *we won't be condemned*, which is a stronger word for *eternal punishment*. The first is **temporary**, and the second is **eternal**.