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Discerning The Body Of Christ

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The communion service is representative of the new covenant that we have been given, the blood that Jesus shed cleansed us from all sin and in fact blotted out those past sins, we have been made worthy which brings forgiveness, unworthiness brings judgment.

Teaching the proper way to celebrate the communion service, will enable us to realize what the bread and the cup represent and to do in remembrance of Jesus and the price that He paid, not taking the elements unworthily, but that each person should examine themselves before taking communion, judging themselves in order that they would not be judged. Sickness and death are a result of not judging themselves. If there is unforgiveness in their life that forgiveness would have been given, realizing that the body of Christ is made up of different members and that all are equally important, one cannot function without the other. We must learn to identify and discern the body of Christ.

1 Cor 11:24-32 "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. 27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." KJV

Paul was teaching the people in Corinth regarding the proper way to take the Lords supper, explaining to them the importance of the elements, not to be taking them unworthily because it will bring judgment on them, but to be examining themselves and discerning the Lords body. There were sick among them and he explained because they had not judged themselves, this sickness was a result and that some had died. He gave in detail what each of the elements represented and that each should bring to them the remembrance of the price that Jesus had paid with His life.

Each of us must examine ourselves, if there is forgiveness that needs to be given, then do it before taking the elements. If the Lord shows us some area of our lives that needs to be corrected, make that correction in order not to be judged as the world is judged.

Eph 1:22-23 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." KJV

What is the Lords body and who is the Lords body? Paul is answering those questions in Ephesians.

Jesus is the head and the church is His body. It is the fullness of Him that filleth all in all. The reason that people were having trouble in their bodies was that they were not discerning the full body of Jesus. Paul is teaching the importance of all the different members of the body, how to

discern all those bodies working as one body. In learning to discern the body of Christ we must realize that there are many different bodies, it can be their race, culture, color of their skin or differences that there might be in interrupting the word. Most of all we must have love to be able to discern properly the body of Christ with all the differences involved. We have to learn to walk in love so there will be no problems with the other members of the body.

Each member of the natural body has a definite operation and without all the parts working, the natural body is unable to function, so it is with the spiritual body of Christ, all parts of that body need to be discerned in order to work properly, one is not more important than another. We cannot all be an eye or hand, nor can we all be pastors or teachers, it takes each and every part of the body in order for the entire body of Christ to work. Each part and each job is equally important, but it will take each and every part of the body to operate in the area that God has given them. When one part is not functioning in what God has given them to do, the whole body suffers. Every part of the body seen or unseen are important, having many different jobs. If one member is suffering regardless of what is causing the suffering all will be suffering and if one member is being honored then all the members will be honored. The body is to be working as one body.

1 Cor 12:11-27 "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame **Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. 12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary :23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. 25 That there should be no *schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."KJV

*schism means divisions. Paul is speaking that there should not be division in the body but that there can be differences

1 Cor 10:16-17 "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread." KJV

**1 Cor 12:7 "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." KJV

We are members of the body of Christ, not only locally but of the world and need to let our lives be shown in this way, not judging others but loving them.