

# LOVE IS

## 1 & 2 Corinthians

## Week 13: 1 Corinthians 11b

### Issue #4 - Order in worship - Chapters 11-14

- 1 Corinthians 11 - Headship and Communion
- 1 Corinthians 12 - The Place and Purpose of Spiritual Gifts
- 1 Corinthians 13 - Love as Prime Motivator
- 1 Corinthians 14 - Language and Order

### 1 Corinthians 11:17-19

- The first issue in the Corinthian church is division, and it was showing up big time as they shared a meal together
- Worship and communion looked quite a bit different than our typical Sunday gatherings. The worship gathering took place at a large home or communal hall and the order of events was much less scripted than ours.
- Paul makes a simple point that there is a proper place for division: elders, deacons, worship leaders, etc. Let's not make the case that we erase everything. There are proper guidelines, roles, and leaders.

### 1 Corinthians 11:20-22 - The problem

- The Lord's Supper was more than a moment in the worship service like ours. They really had a potluck feast together.
- Food became the attraction rather than the fellowship - Acts 2:42-44
- Some people come to eat and there is no food left!
- Some people are drinking in excess!
- The divisions between rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, new to church or been here forever are growing

### 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - The pattern

- Paul gives us the pattern of Jesus at a Passover meal. A meal where all who are present participate together - just like a family meal

- Communion is for remembering the Gospel work of Jesus Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection. Not for satisfying our appetite
- In the Passover meal the bread is made without yeast. Yeast is a sign of sin. The unleavened bread shows us Jesus body before his resurrection.
- In the Passover meal the cup after supper is called the cup of redemption. It is the third of four cups. There are four promises in Exodus - I will bring you out from the burden of Egypt, I will rescue you from bondage, I will redeem you with an outstretched arm, I will take you as my people.

### **1 Corinthians 11:27-34**

- The “unworthy manner” of the Corinthians is contrasted with “examining oneself” before taking the Lord’s Supper.
- Verse 30 - people aren’t dying because of communion! But their lack of self-examination is bringing them into judgment.
- It is better to do the hard work of self-examination and accepting correction than to resist God and fall into judgment.

### **Questions about communion:**

- What happens when we take communion?
- How often should we celebrate communion?
- Who should take communion?