

## September 25

**Scriptures:** Read 1 Corinthians 11

**Key Verse:** “For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.” (1 Corinthians 11:29)

### Overview

The early Church used to meet for regular opt-luck dinners. They were called “agape: meals—“love-feasts”. Ideally they were supposed to include everyone and highlight no distinction between the well to do and the poorer believers. But here is what was happening:

The upper-income believers were getting to the dinners before the lower-income workers. Rather than wait for their poorer brethren, these early arrivers were going ahead with the food and drink—not only getting the best on the “menu”, but depleting the supply for the latecomers. Some were drinking too much and becoming drunk (v.21).

The effect, of course, was the humiliation of the poorer believers (v.22), causing socioeconomic division- discrimination of the basest kind. And, all this was happening in the name of a “love-feast”, meant to glorify and remember Jesus! Paul was angry, and rightly so.

As Paul was about to teach (chapters 12, 13, 14), the “body of Christ” was made up of many members, all with differing, yet complementary gifts. There was to be interdependence in the body—just as the hand and the eye need each other, so, too, the various members of Christ’s body need each other.

When one member refuses to acknowledge another, he is cutting himself off from that person’s gift. And suppose that, upper-income member needs healing and the one possessing the gift of healing is a lower-income member? What happens? The rich member gets sicker and dies because he refused to “discern” or “recognize the gift Christ had given for his healing—“For this reason many are weak and sick among you,, and many sleep” (v.30). The “Lord’s Supper” is a time to recognize our interdependence. You need my gift, and I need yours.

### Prayer

Lord, please give us grace to discern the Lord’s body. Yes, help us to understand more of what it means for His body to have been broken and His bloodshed for us—and help us understand that each brother and sister in the Lord’s body, too. May we treat one another as we would treat our Lord Jesus.