

## THE LORD'S TABLE

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There has been a lot of controversy recently in some Christian circles about the Lord's table. The Lord's table is an expression of the communion service also known as the breaking of bread. The breaking of bread conveys an instant meaning whereas Mass, Communion or Eucharist may not.

In 1 Corinthians 11, the Lord refers to bread as a symbol of His body to be broken and the wine is a symbol of His blood to be shed. They are only symbols.

But the whole text in this chapter refers to known misconduct by some at Corinth at the Lord's Table as was their misconduct with regards to spiritual gifts with their self-promotion and pride.

If one is naturally hungry or thirsty, he is to have a meal at home. Despite what some assert, the Lord's Supper is not a banquet, party or feast. Neither is it a celebration.

But there were troubles about the Lord's Supper with some Corinthians. They treated it like a domestic meal. There was gluttony and revellings, as Matthew Henry points out. Some made the Lord's Supper into a party with frivolity and lots of food and wine. This is the unworthiness that is meant here in this chapter.

To remember the Lord we come together and, we have to repeat, that this is not a domestic meal. The breaking of bread should be often which means on very many occasions and, according to this chapter, whenever believers come together which is what brethren do.

The chapter begins with the call for the women to cover their hair. This is not sexism but, in those days, a woman's hair was her attractiveness and glory and men in the meeting could be distracted. It must be remembered that the woman was to be subject to the man in spiritual matters and the man was also subject and to the Lord Himself. References to a woman praying does not mean out loud. A woman prophesying is thought to refer to her inaudibly praying for others as well as self.

Modern churches reject the Biblical teaching about women as they do other matters. If we eliminate the verses about head covering what else might we disregard? We are called upon to obey God's Word not modern fashion!

But it is not all warning in this chapter, since the apostle Paul praises the Corinthians for keeping the basic ordinances of the faith.

There is the thought that before we break bread we should in our hearts repent of anything we have done wrong since we last met. We are to come together as one unit not as separates. Some churches remember the Lord in the breaking of bread only once a month which contradicts the Biblical message. While I have tremendous respect for the Salvation Army, they do not do it at all.

(482)