
From Now till Eternity

1 Corinthians 11:17-33

Introduction This is the first day of the New Year with all its promise and resolutions for newness...

We are gathered to fellowship with one another and with Christ as we share in the Lord's Table.

Confess all Your Sins (v.27-28)

As we consider this text and move into the New Year, the Lord wants you to examine yourselves and confess your sins.

Of Being Self-focused

There is such a tendency, even in ministry and fellowship, to become self-focused and self-serving. The community of Christ becomes that which is here to serve you, not for you to serve her. Confess this sin of selfishness and each symptom the Spirit brings to mind. Then commit yourself to walking in humility in this New Year.

Of Causing Strife and Division

Not all division is bad: Paul says that here some was necessary to expose those who were wrong. But, carefully consider and confess where you are the cause of strife and division, even in the way you respond to others. Then commit yourself to walking in harmony, as much as is your part, with all in this New Year.

Of Not Living Worthy of Christ

Taking the cup in an unworthy manner is a serious issue. We will explore what that means in a moment. But we have been called to live worthy of Christ and our high calling. Confess to the Lord where your life is marked by being unworthy. Then commit yourself to pleasing Him in this New Year.

Commune with Your Savior (v.23-26)

As we consider this text and take up the Lord's table, the Lord wants you to fellowship with Christ as you share in the memorial elements.

Give instructions (a) memorial (b) reflection (c) confession (d) communion (e) waiting

Who Gave His Body (v.23-24)

He is the sin-bearing sacrifice for us, our substitute. He took on Himself our own sins. Then He endured the eternal wrath of God for us. Sin was not excused. Sin was pun-

ished. Let us take the bread, remembering Christ and being willing to give our very bodies for His sake.

Who Poured out His Life (v.25-26)

He has poured out His life, shed His blood, for us as our substitute. Our life was demanded as payment for our sins. In the shedding of His blood, His life was the payment for our sins. The payment was not cancelled. It was paid in full. Let us drink the cup, remembering Christ and being willing to lay down our lives for His sake.

Care for Your Brothers and Sisters (v.27-34)

As we consider this text and move into the New Year, the Lord wants you to care for your brothers and sisters. Look carefully at what Paul is saying.

Its Great Importance (v.27-29)

The unworthy taking of the Lord's Table was a failure to recognize the importance of the Body of Christ in the gathered community. They gathered for a love feast, failed to wait for the lowly and poor, leaving them little. We may not do this in the same way but in lots of other small ways. In fact, the way they came to the table was simply an outgrowth of the rest of their carnality.

Its Serious Consequences (v.30-32)

Taking the Lord's Table, the time of communion with Christ and the community of Christ and failing to acknowledge and care for your brothers and sisters brings severe chastening. In Corinth, some were sick and some had died. We must carefully weigh this in our culture where we are so individualistic and independent.

Its High Calling (v.33-34)

Even the way the Lord's Table is conducted as a practical matter must express our essential unity and oneness. There were lots of things wrong that Paul needed to deal with – later. This is why we share in communion the way we do. But there is a great high calling to really care in practical ways for one another. Commit yourself to this high calling all through this New Year.

We have the opportunity now to express our love and care for one another as we prepare to go

Conclusion

The baskets are out at the doors for a benevolent offering to care for our needy.

Fellowship with one another by meeting and greeting someone new or different.