

AN OLD WAY TO PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

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Intro:

Tradition can be a very powerful force in your life.

* So important to the local church- God scheduled a family-meal together.

* I wonder if we wouldn't have better results in the church if people took the "eating time" together more seriously.

Three parts **(1) The Offense (2) The ordinance (3) The obligation**- that we have as believers

I. THE OFFENSE 11:17-22

? **Is your family table a BLESSING or a BATTELGROUND?**

1 Cor. 11:17 (cp v 2 "I praise you...")

* What God had designed as a blessing had become a battleground.

A. Establish a principle: the Lord's table & the table in our homes are places for unity not division.

1. The Corinthians came together in (chpt. 1 & 3) Paul rebuked them then & here now again.
2. Paul writing that schisms are necessary (v 19)
 - "Must be" same word John used & Paul - schisms from time to time in the church so God can purify the body.

Note: **Mt 13:35, 38** Devil sows tares- they stay together until He separates them.

From time to time God sweeps through and cleans out the tares so the church can grow.

Note: **Mt 18:7**

* Divisions & schisms are going to come JUST make sure you are not a part of them.

* Paul back on track here - yes schisms are going to come but the Lord's table is not for that but UNITY!

B. The table of the Lord is a place of sacrificial service & not selfish excess. 11:20-22

In the early years of Christianity when believers came together- very quickly made it into a special celebration.

* **They had a ceremony without reality... They had form without substance!**

11:22 "Praise you NOT".

* "Ordinances" - they had kept them but perverted them.

* "Sacrament"- man's work upward to avail to God. (man cannot approach God) Grace.

* **2 ordinances**- Lord's Supper, Baptism (simple) not a lot of rules here.

* The family table will always reveal the state of the family

* Ask yourself what happens when your family gets together around the dinner table.
Maybe we ought to re-evaluate our lifestyle...

* Why we cancelled our Sunday night service years ago- to spend time with the family & others.

? How did you walk away for the Lord's Table last time? (Bitter & divided or unified & joyful?)

II. THE ORDINANCE 11:23-26

A. The source of the ordinance 11:23a the Lord

1. Think of all the things that the Lord told Paul- he told him the importance of the Lord's Table. (Priorities to Paul) in a world of twisted priorities

- a. How will we keep our kids from falling away? Church members gathering around the Table.

2. **Acts 2:42, 46-47**

* **If you had to list the four most important things in the local church today**- might have to look hard to find someone that would say the Lord's Supper as one of the four.

- B. The **setting of the ordinance 11:23b- 26** (Satan's worst God's best) "that night"
 1. Jesus knew what was going to happen & he sat down & gave thanks. (in the darkness) God has given us a beacon of Light.
 2. This is my body- broken to be distributed
 3. A commandment not an option- to remember what Christ is to us. (Joyfully)
 4. The cup- the bread (Grace sealed salvation)
 5. The frequency of the celebration- "as often" "**Shew**"= **preach** (in other places) (Every time we celebrate the Supper we are preaching a message of salvation)

III.THE OBLIGATION 11:27-34

- A. No one is unworthy - but live as though we are unworthy **11:27-31**
 1. When you come to Lord's Table without **examining yourself** to see if you are right with God (like the dinner table with Mom)
 2. "**Not discerning**"- discriminating when you come to the Table. (v 30) euphemistic way of speaking of believers that die. - Believer needs to judge himself- NOW not God dealing with it later.
- B. Need for self-denial following self-judgment **11:33-34**
 1. "Tarry"- waiter at a meal (server) serving one another

Lesson:

1. There are benefits to a family meal
2. The Lord' Table is more important than most of us ever thought for maintaining unity in the family & spiritual delinquency - and the great falling away.
3. What in your life that needs to be carried to the cross?