the book of 1st Corinthians

Thursday Morning Bible Class

1 Corinthians 11:23-12:22

1

Words of Institution – 11:23-26

- 23 – Paul repeats the words of institution to remind them of why they celebrate such a meal in the first place.
- 24 – "In remembrance of me" – To remember is to participate as if we are around the table with Jesus himself.

2

Words of Institution – 11:23-26

- 24 – Holy Communion is not a festival commemorating a dead man; it is a meal fellowship with Him who lives and who is actually present among his followers through bread and wine.
- 26 – To participate gives testimony to the sacrificial death of Christ for all.

3

What is received in the Sacrament?

Roman Catholic	Lutheran	Reformed
	Bread Wine	Bread Wine
Body Blood	Body Blood	
Changed Into	"Is"	Represents

4

Proper Reception – 11:27-34

- 27 – "unworthy" – A matter of faith. This is not an ordinary meal, but to misuse the Sacrament is to profane the very body and blood of the Lord.
- In the very act of eating the bread and drinking the wine, the communicant orally receives Christ's body and blood: "in, with and under"

5

Proper Reception – 11:27-34

- 28 – "Examine himself" – Is the communicant ready to participate with fellow Christians?
  - 1 – Am I a sinner?
  - 2 – Am I sorry for my sin?
  - 3 – Do I believe that Christ is present in the Sacrament to forgive my sins?
  - 4 – Do I promise to amend my sinful life.

6

Proper Reception – 11:27-34

- 29 – "unworthy" – taking the sacrament with the wrong motives or beliefs.
- "Without discerning the body" - The body of Christ? The Church? Or both.
- If we partake without faith, believing that the body of Christ is present in the meal, we bring judgment, not forgiveness.

7

Proper Reception – 11:27-34

- 30 – A disease was going around. Divine retribution?
- 31 – If we examine ourselves beforehand, we would not be judged by God.
- 32 – But God's judgment is always for our good.
- 33 – Wait for all to arrive
- 34 – If you are hungry, eat at home!

8

Spiritual Gifts – Chapters 12-14

- Believers in the early church were identified by various spiritual gifts.
- The gifts were diverse. Thus disorder arose as to which gifts were most important.
- Confusion arose because so many wanted to demonstrate their gifts.
- Paul seeks to explain what the gifts are, how to use them, and that they are all to edify others.

9

The Holy Spirit – 12:1-3

- 1 – Paul is again responding to a question in a letter sent to him. This is about the use of spiritual gifts.
- 2 – When they were heathen they were led by idols. Now they are led by the Holy Spirit.
- 3 – If one believes, it is because of the Holy Spirit. And if the Spirit is there, they will not, in turn, curse God.

10

Variety of Gifts – 12:4-11

- 4 – A variety of gifts, but the same Spirit is behind them all.
- *Xarismata* – Gifts of grace
- 5 - The same is for service – The Holy Spirit is behind them all.
- 6 – "Spirit" (v. 4); "Lord" (v. 5), and "God" (v. 6). The Trinity is behind all evidences of faith.

11

Variety of Gifts – 12:4-11

- 7 – This sentence is the key to the whole chapter! The gifts of God are always understood in terms of their purpose.
- 8-10 – Paul lists various kinds of gifts, all of which come from the same source and for the same purpose.

12

Variety of Gifts – 12:4-11

- "Wisdom" – to explain God's unfolding purpose.
- "Knowledge" – Helping people grow in knowledge and understanding.
- "Faith" – Not saving faith, but a strong confidence in God.
- "Gifts of healing" – being able to heal various diseases.

13

Variety of Gifts – 12:4-11

- "Working of miracles" – The ability to do the impossible.
- "Prophecy" – The ability to tell forth the message of God.
- "Distinquish between spirits" – The ability to discern true preaching from false.

14

Variety of Gifts – 12:4-11

- "Various Kinds of Tongues" – The ability to speak in another language. More on this in Ch. 14
- 11 – Not an exhaustive list, but probably the ones over which they were having most difficulty.
- They all come from the same Holy Spirit at His initiation.

15

The Body Analogy – 12:12-26

- 12 – Paul compares the church as the body of Christ to a physical body. Diversity does not conflict with unity.
- 13 – We are all part of the body of Christ. That is the unity.
- 14 – But there is also a diversity; as the body has many members, so does the church.

16

The Body Analogy – 12:12-26

- 15 – Even though a part is different, it is not then not a part of the body.
- 16 – Just as one part cannot complain that it is not like another part, so one member can't complain that his gift is not like another's.
- 17 – The important thing is what each gift can do for the whole body.

17

The Body Analogy – 12:12-26

- 18 – The parts are arranged according to God's design.
- 19 – No one gift is more important than another.
- 20 – The must be both unity and diversity.
- 21 – No one member is more important.
- 22 – That which is considered weak is still essential.

18