

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

1 CORINTHIANS 10-11

An older couple had been losing their memory. Their doctor advised them to start writing things down...

One night the wife asked her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream with chocolate syrup. She said, "Make sure you write it down so you'll remember." He responded, "No need, I got it." She then asked him to add some whipped cream, *but insisted*, "You need to write it down." He told her, "No worries, I'll remember." Finally, she asked him for a cherry on top, and was adamant, "Write it down." He grunted, "Ice cream, chocolate syrup, whipped cream, and a cherry on top. I've got it right here." (*Points to side of his noggin.*)

After a while, he exits the kitchen with a piping hot plate of eggs and bacon. She sees the plate, shakes her head, and says, "I told you to write down the toast."

Well, in Chapter 10 Paul is concerned about memory loss among the Corinthian Christians. And he recounts the history of the ancient Hebrews as an example.

Verse 1, "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud..."

When the Hebrews exited Egypt God led them with a cloud by day, and a fire by night. And what a sight it was! God wanted their eyes to be fixed on His glory!

And they "all passed through the sea..." I always get goose bumps when I watch the Ten Commandments and Moses Heston raises his rod, and the waters of the Red Sea part before Israel's astonished eyes. Imagine, having been there as an eye-witness to the miracle...

And they "all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea..." Israel's historical crossing of the Red Sea is analogous to what happens to Christians spiritually. As the Hebrews were baptized into Moses, in a spiritual sense you and I are baptized into Christ.

Think of the parallels... Our deliverer, Jesus, leads us out of the Egypt of this world... He frees us from sin's slavery... He does a miracle by parting the waters of forgiveness... We cross over into a new life in Christ!

Israel also "all ate the same spiritual food..." Recall how God satisfied Israel's hunger? For forty years He supplied them "wonder bread" or "manna." It was supernatural nutrition from God. Psalm 78:25 called the manna "angel's food" - *the first angel's food cake!*

And God has also given Christinas miracle bread to eat. Jesus is "the bread of life." He's food for our soul!

Verse 4, “And all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.” Twice during Israel’s wilderness wanderings God drew water from a rock.

The first time Moses was told to strike the rock. He did, and water gushed out. The second time God said to “speak to the rock...” but Moses became angry. He was fed up with Israel's complaining, so in frustration he misrepresented God. Instead of just speaking, Moses struck the rock a second time. And for his act of defiance God barred Moses from the Promised Land!

And as we read of Moses' mistake we wonder if God was being excessive? *Did his punishment really fit his crime?* That is, until we get to 1 Corinthians 10.

For here, Paul tells us “*that rock was Christ.*” Apparently, quenching the thirst of a few million Hebrews was a peripheral issue. God’s main objective was to paint a picture of the Messiah. For Jesus was struck *once and for all* - on the cross. Now all we have to do is speak to the Rock, and God pours out spiritual refreshment into our hearts. But Moses in his anger struck the rock a second time, and blew the analogy... And that’s why Moses was punished so severely.

Verse 5, “But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.” The word “*most*” is an understatement. “*Most*” was all but two - Caleb and Joshua. Millions of Israelis died in the desert because of their unbelief!

And this is Paul’s point, Israel’s experience teaches us that **a good beginning doesn't insure a good ending.**

For like the Israelites of old, the Corinthians had also seen miracles - they ate the Bread of Life - they drank spiritually from the rock that is Christ. Yet, that didn't mean they wouldn't die in the wilderness if they grew proud - and stopped trusting and following Jesus! **It’s not how we start that matters, it’s how we finish!**

“Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” He quotes Exodus 32:6. While Moses met with God on Mount Sinai Israel bowed to their idol - a golden calf. They couldn’t trust in the invisible God for a forty days, before they sought a substitute they could eye-ball.

Verse 8, “Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day 23,000 fell...” Read Numbers 22-25 for this sordid story. The Moabite king hired an occultist, a middle eastern soothsayer, named Balaam, to curse the encroaching Israelites. But the true God commanded Balaam not to issue his curse.

Balaam bowed to God’s will. But he was greedy and found a work-around. He told the Moabites, that though God wouldn’t let him curse Israel, all the king had to do was to send seductive women into the camp, tempt the Israelites with illicit sex, and lewd idols. The Hebrews would succumb to their lusts, and their own God would judge them Himself. Which is exactly what happened...

And now Paul warns the Corinthians to likewise beware of falling from God through lust and unbelief.

“Nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents.” In Numbers 21 Israel complained about God’s provision, and were literally snake bit. “Nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.”

There’s a Jewish tradition that attributes God’s harshest judgments to a particular angel called “*The Destroyer*.” He’s like a divine battleship! Trust me, you don’t want to meet “*The Destroyer*” in a dark alley!

But the surest way to *rumble* with “*The Destroyer*” is to *grumble* about how God provides for your needs. Murmuring is really just a lack of faith. If we really believe God is in control we’ll stop our bellyaching.

I’m sure you’ve heard the expression, “*Experience is the best teacher!*” But it doesn’t always have to be your experience. *Why keep slamming your head against the wall when you can learn from other people’s mistakes?*

This is why Paul is giving us this history lesson. He says in verse 11, “*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*” What happened to Israel is an example to us. *If we don’t learn from history, we’re destined to repeat it.*

Thus, verse 12, “*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*” Pride has been many a man’s downfall... It reminds me of the brilliant matador, Jose Cubero. He died in Madrid at 21. After thrusting his sword into a bull, Cubero spun around to the cheers of the crowd. He didn’t realize the bull had one final lunge in him, and rammed its horn through Jose’s heart. Today, a statue memorializing the event sits by the bullring, a warning that pride is the enemy of us all!

Verse 13, “*No temptation (or trial) has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*”

Here are four truths to recall whenever you face a trial: **First, you’re not alone.** Trials are “*common to man.*” Temptation is the price for being human. **Second, God is faithful.** It’s no sin to be tempted. God will help us in the struggle. **Third, the temptation is winnable.** You can’t beat it on your own, but you don’t have to, God is with you. **Fourth, there’s always an escape.** God has an exit, just look for His way out.

For God knows our breaking point. He’s aware of what we can and can’t handle. *At times, God tempers the temptation... At other times He increases our resistance...* But he always provides us an escape.

That's why Paul says in verse 14, "Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry." In Chapter 8 we learned that some of the Corinthian believers felt the liberty to eat meat sacrificed to idols. After all, meat is just meat.

But you can carry your freedom too far. Steak is just steak, *but when you eat it in a pagan Temple, with pagan friends, in a pagan celebration, with a pagan priest performing his pagan rituals - your freedom is now promoting idolatry.* In the same way, a glass of wine is just wine, but if you're at a bar guzzling boos, partying in the temple of hedonism - **your freedom has gone too far.** You're now an accomplice to sin.

And some of the Corinthian believers had crossed this line. They were getting sucked back into idolatry.

Paul illustrates what happens spiritually at the altar of an idol by explaining what happens at the Lord's table, "I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread." Communion is a fitting name for what Jesus commanded us to do. When we come to the Lord's table to eat the bread and drink the cup we commune with the Lord behind the table. Fellowship takes place with us and God's Spirit.

Communion is a point of contact where we can release our faith. We can reach up in faith and touch the hem of Jesus' garment. The Lord's Supper is a special occasion for us to interact with God's Spirit.

In verse 18, Paul says the same occurred at the OT altar, "Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?" A biblical sacrifice was a spiritual transaction. The worshipper approached the altar from the physical side, while God's Spirit, behind the altar was also present. In the OT Temple, and at the Lord's Table, the worshipper is met by the Spirit behind the altar, which is the Holy Spirit. Thus, a literal **communion** took place...

This is also what occurred in the pagan temple, *yet it wasn't the Holy Spirit behind the altar, it was a demon.*

Verse 19 tells us, "What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?"

No, an idol is nothing but a stick or stone. There's nothing real or divine about an idol. That's why for a believer in the know, meat sacrificed to it is just meat.

But in the ritual of sacrificing the meat spiritual forces are at play. When an idolater brings his sacrifice to the altar of the idol there's someone there to receive it - not the idol, *it's nothing*, but there are demons. Thus, Paul tells us, "Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons."

Idols are idols and meat is just meat - but *idolatry* is demonic. So don't waltz into a pagan temple as if nothing spiritual is going on. *Demons are a'dancing...*

Here's another example... Yoga involves varied body movements that increase your flexibility. It's exercise. But yoga was originally connected to eastern religion. The philosophy behind it teaches pagan ideas and is a gateway to demonic activity. If it's only exercise to you; *then stretches are stretches*. But if you enroll in a yoga class taught by a Hindu shaman, beware. It's pagan.

As we've stated, whether a thing is good or evil depends on its context. Meat is harmless, until it's used in a ritual that engages a demon. And yoga stretches are benign until they become an attempt to get in harmony with your "*divine self*" - then, it's demonic...

Verse 21, "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?"

The Corinthians knew idols and meats were nothing. *But they took their knowledge too far. They attended weddings and dedications in the pagan temple... When the new building in town opened they bowed when the priest dedicated it to his idol...* They failed to grasp the spiritual factors at play. Though there's nothing to an idol, idol-worship is real, and it's promoted by demons.

You can't follow Jesus, and flirt with demons. God gets very jealous! The Corinthians needed to wise up.

Paul says in verse 23, "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify." Here again is the Christian ethic. We're free *from law*, as long as we live *by love*.

And it's love that determines what's "*helpful*" and "*edifies*." **If I love God** I won't **fumble away my faith**, and if **I love others** I won't do something that **causes them to stumble in their faith** - both are off-limits.

Love is the key to living the Christian life. "*Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.*"

Paul continues to deal with this issue of food. "*Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness. If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols, do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness."* All good things are from God. Thus, give thanks to God and eat His brisket... *unless* someone associates the BBQ with an idol. Then don't use God's gift to promote idolatry.

Meat is meat, but the Christian's chief concern is the conscience of other people. Verse 29, "*Conscience,*" I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty

judged by another man's conscience? But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks?" If my liberty to eat is seen as a moral lapse, or poor judgment - or worse, as a betrayal of Christ - *why would I go there?* My primary concern should be to protect my witness for Jesus.

Verse 31, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." Paul advises "give no offense." **Do nothing to hurt your witness for Jesus!**

Evaluate every activity - every use of time - every enjoyment of pleasure - **by whether it promotes the Gospel and builds up the church.** This is how Paul lived... not just what was allowable, but what was helpful. In "*whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*"

Thus Paul says in Chapter 11:1, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." Paul was like Jesus, he used His liberty to spread the Gospel and build up the church. And he wants us to be like him - *do all to God's glory!*

And not just individually, but publicly, for in the next four chapters Paul will address some of the abuses occurring in the public assembly of the Corinthian church. Paul will set in order their public gatherings.

And the first issue Paul addresses are gender roles. Verse 2, "Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."

Authority matters to God. And He has designated leadership roles in the church and in the home. "All chiefs and no Indians" isn't order, it's chaos. God has a definite chain of command, and here Paul lists it... **God the Father is head over Christ the Son. Christ is head over the man. And the man is head over the woman.**

And notice, the only decline in equality in this chain is between Christ and man. The Father is head over Christ, though both are equal in status. And Man is head over the woman though again both are equal in value. **But equal does not mean same.** As the Father and Son differ in roles, so does the man and woman

Actually, I'm not sure it's accurate to say the wife and husband are equal. Truth be told, most wives are superior to their husband. A woman's submission to her husband has nothing to do with any inferiority on her part. It's the role that God has assigned to her.

Verse 4, "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head." Men in Corinth went into their pagan temples and prayed to their idols with their heads covered, *usually with their toga.* But Christian men prayed with their heads uncovered - there was nothing between them and God.

“But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved.”

In Corinth, Christian men prayed with heads uncovered, while believing women wore headscarfs. At the time, Greek women wore their hair long, and under a veil. This wasn't a heavy burka worn by Muslims. This veil was a light shawl draped over the head.

The headscarf was a symbol that the woman wearing it was under authority. She was living in submission to her husband, or under her father's roof.

The only women in Corinth who wore short hair, or ventured into public without a veil were prostitutes...

Remember, when the woman came to Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair... What appalled the Pharisee was when the woman removed her veil and let her hair down. That was a first-century taboo!

And evidently, this is what was happening in Corinth. The Christian sisters were enjoying their freedom in Christ - to the point, where they thought they could shed their veils. It was first century women's liberation.

Here's a side bar... It's interesting that this female liberation began among the first Christians. For **nothing has done more for women's rights than Christianity!**

In the Greco-Roman world - and Muslim world - even in ancient Israel - women were considered a man's personal property. They were a notch above a slave. It was Christianity that ennobled women and elevated their status. Paul declared in Galatians 3:28, **"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ..."** This was a new and revolutionary idea that shook the foundations of the ancient world.

Recall Paul's point over the last few chapters. As with meat sacrificed to idols, and the privileges of an apostle - there are times when Christians should curtail their freedom for the sake of the Gospel. This needed to be the attitude of the Christian women in Corinth. Yes, the Corinthian ladies were free to shed their veils, *but what message would that send to their neighbors?*

God still has a chain of command in the church and home. He wants *men to lovingly lead* and *women to willingly follow*. Thus, for a female to throw off a symbol of submission it would've been seen as bucking God.

In 21st century America, customs and symbols have changed, but biblical principles have not. Today, if a woman wears a veil or scarf it has nothing to do with submission to her husband. *It's either a fashion statement, or perhaps she's having a bad hair day!* Ladies, don't think you need to start a veil collection.

But there are symbols of submission in our modern culture that a Christian lady should take seriously if she wants to convey an attitude of submission. For example, taking your husband's last name makes a profound statement. As does wearing his

wedding ring, and exchanging traditional vows... A Christian lady is responsible for the message she sends to her culture.

Verse 6, “**For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn.**” Remember, prostitutes shaved their heads. Here, Paul is being sarcastic. He’s saying if a woman ignores custom and foregoes a head scarf, she should just go all out and shave her head. *Both acts made the same statement to the community of ancient Corinth.*

He writes, “**But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. For man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.**”

When God created the first man, He said of Adam, “**It is not good for man to be alone.**” God’s ultimate answer for his aloneness was to take **from** Adam’s side, and make **for** him, a woman. After his wife, Eve, was created, literally a part of the man was missing. **And it’s now no shock to most women to learn that their husband is not all there.** For most men to be complete they now need a woman at their side.

The woman was created **from** and **for** the man. As man is God’s pride and joy, *His glory* - the woman is *the glory of man*. A husband takes pride in his wife. Thus, a woman will find her greatest fulfillment in helping the man she loves; while a man finds his highest fulfillment protecting and providing for his wife.

And as if this passage wasn’t tricky enough, check out verse 10, “**For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.**” *What do angels have to do with gender roles?*

We’re not sure. But in Scripture angels seem to have high regard for rank and order. Angels and demons are organized in “**principalities and powers.**” When Satan stepped over the authority given to him he was booted from heaven. Apparently, angels are very interested in how God arranges authority, and therefore pays close attention to the role-play between male and female.

But just because men are head over women it doesn’t mean they should be haughty, *and not realize their dependence on women*. God made the sexes interdependent, verse 11 “**Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord.**” Both sexes need each other. Our roles should complement - not compete, or cancel out.

“**For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.**” The first woman came from the first man, but every man since has come from a woman. God made it so *women need men and men need women*. We’re interdependent - **different in roles, but equal in value.**

Paul stays on subject in verse 13. “**Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman has long hair, it**

is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.” Wow, here in Chapter 11 we going from one *hairy* issue to another!

Apparently, prior to headscarfs - or any other cultural symbols - God ingrained into nature certain signs of submission... e.g. **the length of a person's hair**. And it's amazing to me how the length of a man or woman's hair has and can reveal the state of that person's heart.

Though there's exceptions to this, generally speaking it's true in most cultures - ancient or modern - women grow and wear their hair longer than men.

Remember, in the 1960s when young men bucked the establishment, what was the symbol of their rebellion? *Long hair!*... And whenever women have rebelled against traditional roles what's one way they've express their defiance? *Short hair!*... **The length of a person's hair can reveal the leaning of their heart.**

Now, I don't want to go too far down the rabbit hole here. I realize, there're a lot of men who grow their hair long just because they like it long. And women who cut their hair short because it's easier, or cooler... It's also true, terms "long" and "short" are relative. *What's long?* If you're bald, everybody's got long hair! **I've always considered long hair as hair longer than my wife's - whatever length Kathy's happened to be at the time.**

And there's another biblical principle that stands out. 1 Samuel 16:7, **"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."** Realize, when God looks at us *the first thing* He sees is our heart, not hair.

But can the length of a person's hair reflect the attitude of their heart? Paul says, **"Yes."** Nature dictates that women have longer hair than men. So when either gender defies nature, it can be a sign of a rebellion.

I love how Paul finishes up his thoughts on gender. Verse 16, **"But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God."**

Paul isn't going to argue over gender issues. *There's nothing to argue about.* God created us and assigned us certain roles - male and female are God's idea, not mine or yours. It's not Paul's opinion, or anybody else's opinion. It's God's Word. You either believe it or not.

Verse 17, **"Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse."** Paul is dealing with problems in the public assembly of the Corinthian church... In essence he's saying, **"It'd be better if you guys closed the doors. Your Sunday meeting is doing more harm than good."**

"For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you." Generally speaking, divisions aren't good, **but Paul says they are necessary.** If someone is in error, someone else has to say so. Be suspicious of people who insist on perfect unity in the

church, and squash all dissent. Total agreement means somebody isn't thinking, or their ideas are getting suppressed.

God created His Church to be self-correcting. *The movements of the Holy Spirit, the living power of God's Word, the fresh conscience of every new believer* - are the tools God uses to keep the church on track and make course-corrections when necessary. That's why there have to be disagreements for corrections to occur. "*Factions among you*" are not always bad.

Verse 20, "*Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.*" Horribly, believers in Corinth were getting drunk at the communion table.

The early Christians always gathered on Sunday for a church-wide pot-luck. They called it the *agape-feast* or *love-feast*. It was a meal followed by Communion.

But the Corinthians' behavior contradicted its name. There was nothing loving about their gatherings. They fought for first dibs on the food. They drank too much wine. There was *no love* at their *love feast*. Their practice of the Lord's Supper had left out the Lord.

Paul writes, "*What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.*"

You can pig out at home. Don't bring such behavior to church and make a mockery of our worship and fellowship. The early church was highly populated by the poor and slaves. For many of its members the love feast was their only decent meal. It was now *a sham!*

Verse 23 is what every pastor should be able to say to His church after he stands to preach! "*For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you...*"

And Paul recounts Jesus' words at His last supper. "*That the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'*" In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "*This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*" To the Jews this was their annual Passover Seder, but to Christians it became a new celebration. The bread now symbolized Jesus' broken body - the cup was His spilled blood. Jesus gave a 1500 year old tradition entirely new meaning.

And through the centuries different views have been advanced to explain the significance of this celebration.

Roman Catholics consider what happens nothing less than *magical*. The bread and wine literally turn into the body and blood of Christ... Whereas, Baptists view it as

simply a **memorial**. It's just a reminder of the historical events of Calvary... Yet I believe Chapter 10 teach us that it's not **magical**, and it's more than a **memorial** - communion is **mystical**. It's an open door for us to experience Jesus in real time, in a real way.

Recall earlier Paul said that by going to the altar of an idol, you connect with the spirit behind that idol. Well, likewise to eat and drink at the Lord's table you create an opportunity for the Spirit of Christ to work in your spirit. You can expect a very real communion.

Verse 26, "**For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup...**" Notice, he doesn't tell us "**how often**," just "**as often**." That leaves the frequency of communion up to each church and individual believer.

But as often as you do it, "**you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes**." We showcase His sacrifice for us.

"**Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**" This is the verse that has struck horror in many a Christian. The way my former church interpreted verse 27 robbed me of the joy of communion. It scared me...

The OKJ used the word "**worthily**" and folks took it to mean you had to be a perfect Christian - or at least undergo a rigorous self-examination and confess all your sin before you could eat, or you would be judged.

Paul writes, "**For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself...**" We were fearful of God's judgment, but in reality we should've been fearful of bad grammar - that was our real problem. We mistook an adverb for an adjective. The word "**unworthily**" is an adverb describing the act of eating - not an adjective relating to the eater. The NKJV offers a better translation, "**in an unworthy manner**." No one can make themselves worthy of communion. The point of the Gospel is that we're unworthy and can't do it ourselves. If we could be worthy, Jesus would've never had to die!

Paul is reiterating what he's already said. Don't pig out and get drunk, the Corinthians should approach the Lord's Table with a humble and grateful heart. No one is **worthy**, but we all can come in **a worthy manner**.

Notice the last line in verse 29, "**not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.**" Or literally, are dead.

I always interpreted this as part of the scare tactic. If you didn't clean yourself up before taking communion; God would make you sick, or even strike you dead.

But notice the phrase, "**not discerning the Lord's body**." Isaiah 53:5 tells us, "**by His stripes we are healed**." Jesus paid for our healing in His body. Thus, if you just blow through communion, without recognizing what it actually means, you'll miss out on a healing. That's why their church members were weak and sick.

Paul wraps up his thoughts in verse 31, “For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.” God is a father who loves His kids enough to correct them...

“Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment.

And the rest I will set in order when I come.” He has more to say, but right now not enough time to say it all.