

## **Not Discerning the Lord's Body**

By Mitchell Kuhn

**1Co 11:29 (NKJV)** For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

When preparing studies, my goal is to find topics that have not yet been covered by another teacher in our midst. This is the same Goal as the apostle Paul who wanted to "preach the Gospel, not where Christ was named".

**Rom 15:20 (NKJV)** And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, **not where Christ was named**, lest I should build on another man's foundation,

In accordance with that goal, I suggest that you all read Pete Wilson's study that covers some of "eating and drinking unworthily".

### **How do we eat and drink unworthily?**

<http://www.iswasandwillbe.com/micah-part-11-eating-drinking-unworthily/>

"Eating and drinking in an unworthy manner" means not keeping the Lord's commands. Paul explains that breaking the Lord's commands is also called "not discerning the Lord's body".

To understand the true meaning of this admonition, we first need to know what is the Lord's Body?

Paul explains to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 that they are the body of Christ.

**1Co 12:27 (KJV)** **Now ye are the body of Christ**, and members in particular.

Just as our physical bodies have different parts that have different functions, so also the Body of Christ, the Church, has many members with different functions. This topic is covered thoroughly by our beloved Elder Larry Groenewald.

<http://tryingthespirits.com/gifts-ministries-and-operations/>

When we cannot “discern the Lord’s Body”, we do not understand the role that all of the body parts play and despise or judge wrongly what we do not understand. The weak judge the strong and the strong despise the weak.

The gifts, ministries, and operations that Larry describes in the study above are a call to maturity in Christ. We should aspire to fulfil these functions as God gives us the ability. However, we all start off as weak and unable to do much at all.

Different members of the Body grow into their function at a different pace. Some people will learn in one year what it takes another decades to learn. We do not get to choose what role we play, nor how fast we mature into that role.

It is of utmost importance that we take care of the weaker members.

**1Co 12:21 (ESV)** The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

**1Co 12:22 (ESV)** **On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,**

The love of God is manifest in ministering to one another’s weakness. If no one had any need, how would we be bonded together?

**1Co 12:23 (ESV)** and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,

**1Co 12:24 (ESV)** which our more presentable parts do not require. But **God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,**

**1Co 12:25 (ESV)** **that there may be no division in the body,** but that the members may have the same care for one another.

**1Co 12:26 (ESV)** If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

**1Co 12:27 (ESV)** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

**Rom 15:1 (KJV)** We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

**Rom 15:2 (KJV)** Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification.

<http://www.iswasandwillbe.com/bearing-the-infirmities-of-the-weak-study/>

Paul's first rebuke is against the divisions in the Corinthian Church, which is a call to be of one mind.

**1Co 11:17 (NKJV)** Now in giving these instructions I do not praise *you*, since you come together not for the better but for the worse.

**1Co 11:18 (NKJV)** 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.

**1Co 11:19 (NKJV)** For there must also be factions (**heresies**) among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.

Our beloved Elder Mike Vinson has already covered being of one mind in this article.

<http://www.iswasandwillbe.com/be-in-one-spirit-with-one-mind/>

The word translated as "factions" in the NKJV, is better translated as heresies. A heresy is a false doctrine, anything that goes against the true doctrine of Christ.

As Paul explains to the Corinthians, we will each be given false doctrines to believe and those false beliefs will be manifest in our midst. This is done by God to manifest who is approved among us. Those that are approved have the true doctrines of Christ and keep his commandments. As we live by every Word, we will first be the one who has the heresy and then become the one that is approved.

Another term for this is, "seeking an occasion" which I cover in the following study.

<http://tryingthespirits.com/2017-08/seeking-an-occasion/#more-8177>

It is important that you take the time to go read these studies and look up the verses referenced for yourself. Every topic of scripture is built upon the foundation of other topics. Just as there is a progression in physical learning: colleges follow this pattern finance 101, 201, 301, so is there an order of

learning in spiritual matters. If you find yourself in a 301 class not understanding what is being said, go back to the previous foundational classes, 101 and 201, so you can understand the more advance lessons being taught.

**Act 17:11 (KJV)** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, **and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

**2Ti 2:15 (KJV)** **Study to shew thyself approved unto God,** a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Don't worry about memorizing chapter and verse. Christ and his Apostles just said "it is written" and then quoted the verse. If someone wants to verify what you've said, they can go look it up. You can Google a paraphrase of a verse and find the exact reference almost every single time.

Paul's admonitions to the Corinthians were regarding their gathering together.

**1Co 11:20 (NKJV)** Therefore when you come together in one place, **it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.**

"Eating the Lord's Supper" is far more than simply eating a meal together. It is describing the process of living life together and learning to keep God's commands. When we do not keep his commands, we eat in an unworthy manner and bring judgement upon ourselves and cause other to suffer.

This study by brother Mike will help you see the spiritual meaning behind the Lord's supper and how to apply it to your life.

<http://www.iswasandwillbe.com/the-lords-supper-and-the-passover/>

Here is Paul's second admonition:

**1Co 11:21 (NKJV)** For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of *others*; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

**1Co 11:22 (NKJV)** 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*.

Some members of the Corinthian Church were quite weak and spiritually poor. The weaker members should have been the priority at the gatherings, with the stronger making sure that the weaker were properly fed. Instead, these weaker members were ignored and trampled on by the strong.

When you are strong, it is easy to dominate a conversation. The weaker are slower to speak and tend to speak more softly with fewer words.

**Pro 18:23 (NKJV)** The poor *man* uses entreaties, But the rich answers roughly.

Instead, we ought to be quick to listen and slow to speak.

**Jas 1:19 (NKJV)** So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

Let's discuss this question Paul poses to the Corinthians: "Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?"

If you do not eat for a week and then show up to a gathering with food being served, you're going to be starving. This does not put you in a good state of mind to act with proper manners. Your beast will be raging with hunger and greatly tempted.

If you have not had a conversation with another person in a week, when you show up to a meeting of the brethren you will be hungry for fellowship and tend to dominate the conversation. If you have not studied on your own, you will have many questions when a teaching is given and can dominate the discussion time with questions.

If we will eat and drink in our own homes we will have much better manners when we come together. There will always be the weak among us that have not yet been given the ability to do all of these things themselves.

**Gal 6:2 (NKJV)** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**Gal 6:3 (NKJV)** For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

**Gal 6:4 (NKJV)** But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

**Gal 6:5 (NKJV)** For each one shall bear his own load.

Are you studying the scriptures on your own?

Are you talking with others outside of our scheduled gatherings?

Are you sick? Call for the elders that you may be healed.

**Jas 5:14 (NKJV)** Is anyone among you sick? **Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him,** anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

**Jas 5:15 (NKJV)** And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Do whatever is necessary for you to not show up to a gathering of the saints starved. Come well fed so you can be strong to bear with others.

**1Co 11:34 (NKJV)** 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.

**Heb 3:13 (NKJV)** but exhort one another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Just as we need physical food daily, so too do we need daily exhortation from one another and our daily bread. If we don't get this, we will be hardened to the deceitfulness of sin and eat and drink judgement to ourselves.

When we do not keep all of these commands, there will be many weak and sick among us.

**1Co 11:30 (NKJV)** For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

This admonition from Paul is an excellent transition to our next study:

**1Co 11:33 (NKJV)** Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, **wait for one another.**

Waiting for one another is waiting on the Lord, the Lord's body. The opposite of waiting on the Lord is to act hastily.

**Isa 28:16 (NKJV)** Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; **Whoever believes will not act hastily.**

Lord willing, we will next examine the blessings of waiting on the Lord and not acting in haste, as well as the curses of disobeying these commands.

Haste has been a giant in my land for many years. The Lord did not give me the ability to work on such a study until nearly 10 years after coming to a knowledge of the truth.

**Rom 15:18 (NKJV)** For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, **in word and deed**, to make the Gentiles obedient—

We should not teach something until we have been given the ability to make the Gentiles (our flesh) obedient to the commands of the Lord.

### **Comments:**

Jonathan shared this verse for Brutha D.

**2Ti 2:1 (NKJV)** You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**2Ti 2:2 (NKJV)** And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

**2Ti 2:3 (NKJV)** You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

**Pro 14:29 (NKJV)** *He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.*