



# GROWING A SPIRIT FILLED COMMUNITY

A Survey in  
1 Corinthians

**We take the Lords supper correctly in a  
Spirit filled community when we  
RECOGNISE ITS IMPORTANCE**



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**Bible believing churches recognize two practices established by Jesus Christ for His people to observe: baptism and the Lord's Supper. *(The Supper is also called Communion as in 1 Corinthians 10:16, and the Eucharist, which means “the giving of thanks.”)***



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- Since the beginning of the church, it was customary for the believers to eat together (Acts 2:42, 46).
- It was an opportunity for fellowship and for sharing with those who were less privileged. No doubt they completed this meal by observing the Lord's Supper.
- They called this meal “the love feast” since its main emphasis was showing love for the saints by sharing with one another.
- The “agape feast” (from the Greek word for “love”) was part of the worship at Corinth, but some serious abuses had crept in.



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# Jesus instituted Communion

It was when the Passover meal was drawing to a close (Matt. 26:25; Luke 22:20) that Jesus instituted the ordinance that the church calls “the Communion” (1 Cor. 10:16), or “the Lord's Supper” (1 Cor. 11:20).

- The Passover feast opened with a prayer of thanks-giving,
- followed by the drinking of the first of four cups of wine. (The wine was diluted with water and was not intoxicating.)
- Next they ate the bitter herbs and sang Psalms 113—114.
- Then they drank the second cup of wine and began eating the lamb and the unleavened bread.
- After drinking the third cup of wine, they sang Psalms 115—118, and then the fourth cup was passed among them.
- It is likely that between the third and fourth cups of wine, Jesus instituted the Supper.



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**It is not the life of our Lord, or His teachings, that will save sinners —but His death. Therefore, we also remember why He died:**

- Christ died for our sins; He was our substitute, paying the debt that we could not pay. (Isa. 53:6; 1 Peter 2:24)
- We should also remember how He died: willingly, meekly, showing forth His love for us (Rom. 5:8). He gave His body into the hands of wicked men, and He bore on His body the sins of the world.
- However, this “remembering” is not simply the recalling of historical facts. It is a participation in spiritual realities.
- At the Lord's Table, we do not walk around a monument and admire it. We have fellowship with a living Saviour as our hearts reach out by faith.



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**We take the Lords supper correctly in a  
Spirit filled community when we  
RECOGNISE DANGEROUS DIVISION<sub>s</sub>**



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“Eat unworthily” – we often focus on personal sin and guilt but not what Paul is emphasizing.

We should certainly take communion as an opportunity look within (vv. 27–28, 31–32). We must examine our own hearts, judge our sins, and confess them to the Lord.

BUT Paul did not say that we had to be worthy to partake of the Supper, but only that we should practice it in a worthy manner



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Disunity at the Lord's Table was serious -

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

The local church was perhaps the only group in the Roman Empire that welcomed all people, regardless of nationality, social status, gender or economic position.



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- **Some people flaunted their new found freedom or abused their position.**
- **Some of the women flaunted their “freedom” in the public meetings**
- **The love feasts were doing more harm than good to the church.**
- **For one thing, there were various cliques in the church, and people ate with their own “crowd” instead of building relationships with the whole church family.**
- **SELFISHNESS: the rich people brought a great deal of food for themselves, while the poorer members went hungry.**



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RECOGNISE ITS PURPOSE**



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## Proclaim the Lords death till He comes (v. 26b).

- The return of Jesus Christ is the blessed hope of the church and the individual Christian. Jesus not only died for us, but He arose again and ascended to heaven; and one day He shall return to take us to heaven.
- When we see Him, “we shall be like him” (1 John 3:2).
- Heb 13:14 “here we don’t have an enduring city but looking for a city to come”
- 1 John 3:2-3 hope in Him, long for His appearing so be HOLY



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## DISCIPLINE OF GOD

- It is not a judge condemning a criminal, but a loving Father correcting His disobedient (and perhaps stubborn) children.
- Discipline proves God's love for us, and chastening can, if we cooperate, perfect God's life in us.
- His sons and daughters to encourage them to mature (Heb. 12:1–11).



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## Conclusion:

the song of heaven based on Revelation 4. I was gripped by a fresh desire for the church to encounter God in His beauty, His holiness, His power, His majesty and our of that for the church to move forward from every area that keeps your life distracted, defeated or divided.

Isaac Watts a great hymn writer has best expressed what our response should be.....

**Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.**



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