



The Lord's Table Are You Worthy?

Discerning the Lord's Body
The Lord's Table provides a way for us to examine our lives in light of Christ's work on the cross.

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." *John 4:5-7*

Introduction: God wants us to live in full 'communion' with Him. When we do, we will no longer be dominated by self-interest!

O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself;
It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

O LORD, correct me, but with justice;
Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing. *Jer 10:23-24*

Doing Right or Being Righteous?

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. *Matt 5:20*

A. The Unworthy *1 Cor 11:27; 29-30; Luke 18:11*

1. **Unworthy (behavior) manner:** (*1 Cor 11:27*) The Corinthians where not living in obedience to the Lord and saw the 'love feast' as simply another meal to have a party. (*Jude :12*)
2. **Unworthy spirit:** (*1 Cor 11:29*) Some did not 'discern' the Lord's body. That means they did not value the Lord's death on the cross—they did not treat the Lord's Table as a sacred feast and ordinance of the church.
3. **Unworthy righteousness:** (*Luk 18:11*) The Pharisee's in the Gospels represent a righteousness that falls short of God's law. They were experts at 'doing right' but excluded much of the law and added to the law.
4. **Consequences:** (*1 Cor 11:30; Luk 18:14*) Continued lack of repentance and lack of turning to loving obedience can lead to sickness and even death.

B. The Worthy *11:28; 31-32; Luke 18:13*

1. **The repentant:** (*1 Cor 11:28*) "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance..." *Matt 3:8* "...and do works befitting repentance." *Acts 26:20*
2. **The obedient:** (*1 Cor 11:31*) "First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly..." *Matt 7:5*
3. **Worthy righteousness:** (*Luk 18:13-14*) "God, be merciful to me a sinner...this man went down to his house justified." "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." *Matt 5:16*
4. **Consequences:** (*1 Cor 11:31-32*) The context of vs. 32 is that for those who repent (after examining themselves) there may be some type of discipline involved. Either before or after repentance that involves growing in Christ.

1 Cor 11:27-32(NKJV)

:27 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.

:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

:29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

:30 **For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.**

:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Luke 18:10-14(NKJV)

:10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men— extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

:12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

:13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalms 139:23-24 NLT