

**Gathering around the table**  
**1 Cor 11.17-34**

**Gathering around the table**

**Eating together is about including people...**

**...not excluding them**

<sup>20</sup> *When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat. <sup>21</sup> for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. <sup>22</sup> Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing?*

This isn't just about bad manners. It is about denying that Jesus has made a difference in our relationships.

**Gathering around the Lord's table**

Paul goes back to basics. <sup>23</sup> *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you...*

Of all the things that the church does, this is one of the most basic.

**At the Lord's Supper we look back**

<sup>26</sup> *For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death...*

**At the Lord's Supper we look forward**

*...proclaim the Lord's death until he comes*

**At the Lord's Supper we look around**

Paul's issue with the Corinthians was that they weren't looking around. They were behaving as if Jesus' death and resurrection didn't change anything in the present.

*"whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord... <sup>29</sup> For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on themselves."*

The issue isn't their theology, or their ritual, or even personal sin. He's already told us what the issue is; despising the church of God and humiliating those who have nothing; or, in theological terms, "not recognising the body of the Lord."

**Keeping the right things in focus**

The Corinthians had focussed on the meal and lost track of the meaning. We often focus on the meaning and lose track of the meal.

The Lord's Supper is about two things; salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection, and recognition of the new community he creates. We need to remember both.