

# 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11

In Chapters 11-14, St. Paul deals with good order that should prevail in public worship. He rebukes the Corinthians for improper conduct shown at their services. The particular abuses referred to are improper dress and unbecoming behavior of women, as well as abuses in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

## Modest Worship

Read: **1 Corinthians 11:1-16**

1. St. Paul urges the Corinthians to follow his example, as he himself follows the example of Christ (11:1). What do you think he had in mind in saying that he followed the example of Christ? (Consider: 1 Cor. 10:33 & Matthew 20:28)
2. Customs and practices often express principles or fundamental truths. In such cases, it is the principle or fundamental truth that is enduring, and not necessarily the custom or practice. That is the situation in the matter of head coverings, which St. Paul discusses in this section. Customs may change, while the fundamental truths they reflect do not. Consider **1 Cor. 11:2-10**. What do you think is Paul's main concern here?
3. This section of God's Word does not define the roles of men and women in every possible life situation. Rather, St. Paul talks about how we express these roles in the public worship service. Why is it important for Christian women and men to conform to what Scripture says about gender roles?
4. The roles of men and women in relationship to one another are rooted in creation (and so apply to all, whether Christians or not). Christians will desire to conform to God's order because they honor God and because they do not wish to bring the Christian faith into disrepute. However, St. Paul also refers in **1 Cor. 11:11-12** to another principle rooted in salvation. He expresses the salvation principle more clearly in **Galatians 3:26-29**. What is this principle?

## The Lord's Supper

Read: **1 Corinthians 11:17-34**

5. St. Paul commended the Corinthians in verse 2, but in verse 17, he has no commendation for them. What are Paul's objections to their behavior in **1 Cor. 11:17-22**?
6. How was the way the church at Corinth observed the Lord's Supper having just the opposite effect you would expect it to have on the believers' relationships with one another?



7. St. Paul has strong words about eating and drinking the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner" (1 Cor. 11:27), "without recognizing the body of the Lord" (1 Cor. 11:29). St. Paul says that taking part unworthily is a sin against the Lord's body and blood. Paul recommends that we examine ourselves before taking part in the Lord's Supper. What might we ask our Lord to reveal to us in such an examination?
8. What preparation have you found especially helpful toward receiving the Lord's Supper with blessing?
9. While God's Word does not say how often we are to take part in the Lord's Supper, 1 Cor. 11:26 implies that this is to happen frequently. What benefits do you see in a frequent partaking of the Lord's Supper?



### **Christian Questions with Their Answers (Small Catechism, LSB 329)**

*Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament.*

After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor may ask, or Christians may ask themselves these questions:

1. **Do you believe that you are a sinner?** Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
2. **How do you know this?** From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
3. **Are you sorry for your sins?** Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
4. **What have you deserved from God because of your sins?** His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Romans 6:21, 23.
5. **Do you hope to be saved?** Yes, that is my hope.
6. **In whom then do you trust?** In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **Who is Christ?** The Son of God, true God and man.
8. **How many Gods are there?** Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
9. **What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?** He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
10. **Did the Father also die for you?** He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
11. **How do you know this?** From the Holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
12. **What are the Words of Institution?** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
13. **Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?** Yes, I believe it.
14. **What convinces you to believe this?** The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.
15. **What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?** We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

**16. Why should we remember and proclaim His death?** First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

**17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?** His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

**18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?** That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

**19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?** First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

**20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?** To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

*These questions and answers are no child's play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."*

### Closing: Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared (LSB 622)



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for  
2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel  
3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y  
4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y  
hosts are dwell - ing, And in Your pres - ence  
hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent  
Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y



and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion  
they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,  
e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.  
and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to  
 And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry  
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by  
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are



You for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.  
 and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,  
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.  
 pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.

5 Though reason cannot understand,  
 Yet faith this truth embraces:  
 Your body, Lord, is even now  
 At once in many places.  
 I leave to You how this can be;  
 Your Word alone suffices me;  
 I trust its truth unailing.

6 Lord, I believe what You have said;  
 Help me when doubts assail me.  
 Remember that I am but dust,  
 And let my faith not fail me.  
 Your supper in this vale of tears  
 Refreshes me and stills my fears  
 And is my priceless treasure.

7 Grant that we worthily receive  
 Your supper, Lord, our Savior,  
 And, truly grieving for our sins,  
 May prove by our behavior  
 That we are thankful for Your grace  
 And day by day may run our race,  
 In holiness increasing.

8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,  
 Be praised throughout all ages!  
 Preserve it, for in ev'ry place  
 The world against it rages.  
 Grant that this sacrament may be  
 A blessed comfort unto me  
 When living and when dying.

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Sources: God's Word for Today: 1 Corinthians (CPH: 1997), LifeLight: 1 Corinthians (CPH: 2007), Luther's Works (CPH, Fortress), Concordia Commentary: 1 Corinthians (CPH: 2000)

**Prayers For Worship (LSB: inside front cover)**

**Before Communing**

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Thanksgiving after Receiving the Sacrament**

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.