

1 Corinthians 11:17-34  
Series – United in Grace  
Message – Self-Defeating Gatherings  
February 2, 2025  
Fifth Reformed Church  
Rev. Jon Sherrill

### **The Situation**

- Wakeup call... 1 Corinthians 11:17
- Description... 1 Corinthians 11:18, 21-22
- The physical setup of a larger Roman house, known as a villa, was based on the \_\_\_\_\_ of upper-middle-class Roman society.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ arrangements of this worship gathering communicated that there were more-honorable followers of Jesus and less-honorable followers of Jesus.
- Those privileged few who arrived early \_\_\_\_\_ the celebration before the others arrived.

### **The Purpose of the Lord's Supper**

- Three sections:
  - Vs. 17-22 – the situation and what was happening
  - Vs. 23-26 – the purpose of the Lord's Supper
  - Vs. 27-34 – the implications of celebrating the Lord's Supper inappropriately
- “For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes” (1 Cor. 11:26).
- An act that proclaims the Gospel

- The table is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our unity as Christians, not something to be used to emphasize divisions in the church.

### **The Implications of Celebrating Inappropriately**

- Hospitality is the \_\_\_\_\_ of mission and discipling.
- “For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves” (1 Cor. 11:19).
- Misunderstanding of “eating and drinking judgment on themselves”

### **How will you respond to God's word today?**

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1. In your own words, explain the situation the Apostle Paul was addressing in this passage.
2. Have you experienced a gathering of Christians that seemed to make a similar mistake to that being addressed here? Say more about that experience. What did you hear or observe?
3. How is participating in the Lord's Supper a proclamation of “the Lord's death until he comes” (v.26)?
4. Paul believes that “discerning the body of Christ” as we gather as a church is crucially important. What does “discerning the body of Christ” mean and how do you try to practice it?
5. How might God be getting your attention?
6. What might God be saying to you?
7. What are you going to do about it?