



## First Corinthians Learning To Be Light in a Dark World

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### Divisions at the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:17–34

June 21, 2015

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**Theme:** Some of the conflicts in the church at Corinth were related to the gap between rich and poor. This was manifesting itself especially in the communal meal that the church shared before the Lord's Supper. The elite rich in the congregation, in line with Greco-Roman cultural values, were coming early and eating their own food in order to avoid contact with the poor. The Lord's Supper, which should have been the symbol of the unity of all believers, had become an arena for selfishness, prejudice and division. Paul warns the church that God's judgment will fall on those who don't show honor to the body of Christ, His Church.

### Outline

1. The Problem: Despising the Poor and the Church of God (11:17-22)
  - a. Criticism of their divisions, vv.17–19
  - b. The cause of their divisions: segregation of rich and poor, vv. 20–21
  - c. The result of these divisions, v. 22

## 2. The Solemn Institution of the Lord's Supper (11:23-26)

- a. An ordinance from the Lord
- b. A new Passover
- c. Celebrating the establishment of the New Covenant
- d. A remembrance the Lord's death
- e. An anticipation of the Lord's return

## 3. Instructions to Correct the Abuses at the Lord's Supper (11:27–34)

- a. Warning of judgment, v. 27, 29–30, 33
- b. Examine yourself, v. 28
- c. Discern the Body of Christ, v. 31
- d. Wait for one another, v. 33
- e. Eat in your own homes, v. 3

**Takeaway:** As Christians, we are all equal – just sinners saved by God's grace. If we treat some people with greater respect and look down on others, we contradict the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Next Cove: June 28, 2015**