

*Do You Despise the Church?*



*1 Corinthians 11:22*



- 1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.
- How does this individualism affect their family relationship?
  - two specific examples in 1 Corinthians ... though there's many more
    - Grievances between Brothers
    - Eating food sacrificed to idols
  - about worship: Communion
- How does it affect our sibling relationships?



- 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

**It Is Not the Lord's Supper**  
(1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

**When you come together it is not for the better but for the worse**  
1 Corinthians 11:17

- 17: when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse
  - For the Better
    - gathering together should be for the better.
      - Too often it's really not, for a variety of reasons, for a variety of people
    - But maybe it would make a difference if each of us came with a desire to make it better.
      - Not just better for myself
      - But better for others
        - What can I do to make this better for you?

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- how could it be worse?
  - In general we focus on their failure in actions (correctly)
  - But what is behind those failures?
    - At least in part, we'll see that some of them were being individualistic

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- 18: when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you.
  - church = a group of people, an assembly
  - he's talking about this local group and what they are doing
  - church in this case is each and every person in this group.

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**When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat**  
1 Corinthians 11:20

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- 20 When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat.
  - 21 For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal.
    - each one
    - goes ahead (of the others, putting themselves forward)
    - his own meal



It Is Not the Lord's Supper  
(1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

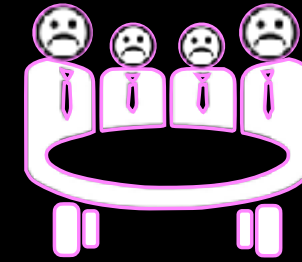
When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat

1 Corinthians 11:20



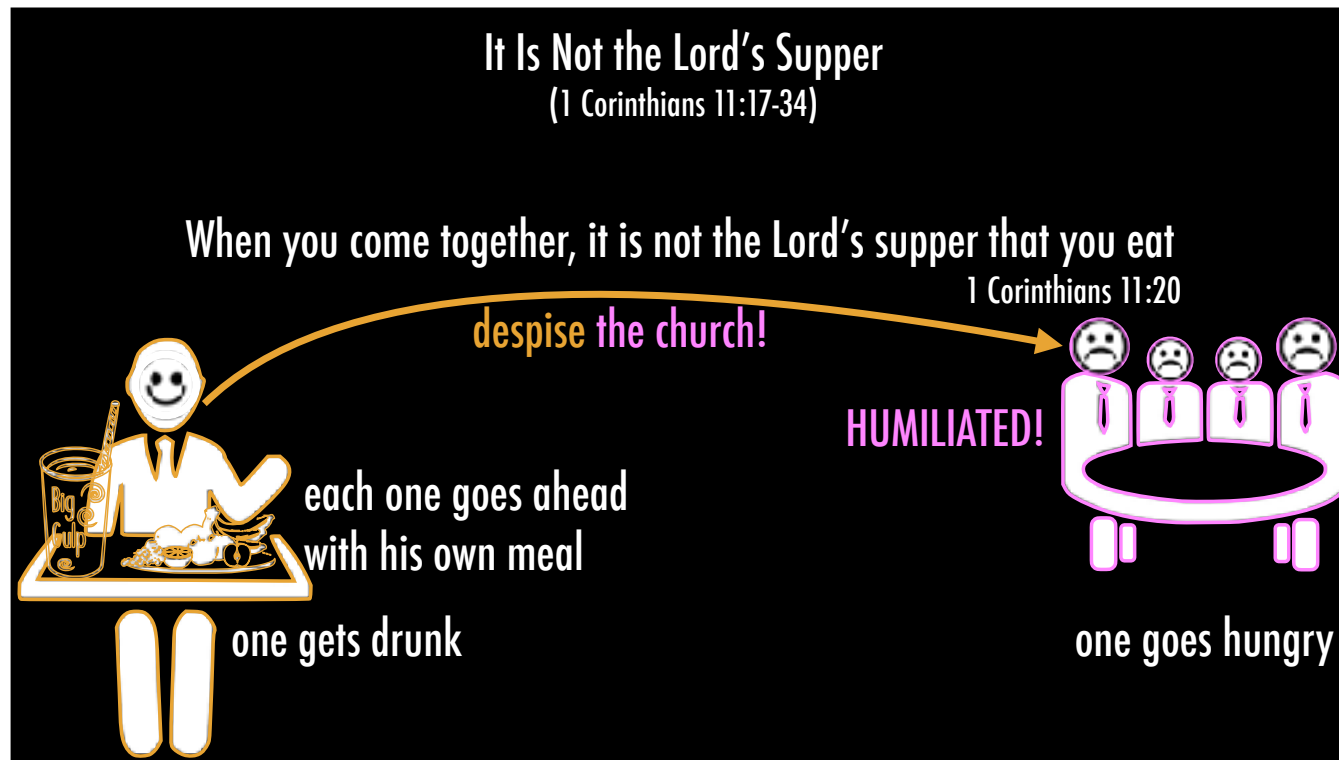
each one goes ahead  
with his own meal

one gets drunk

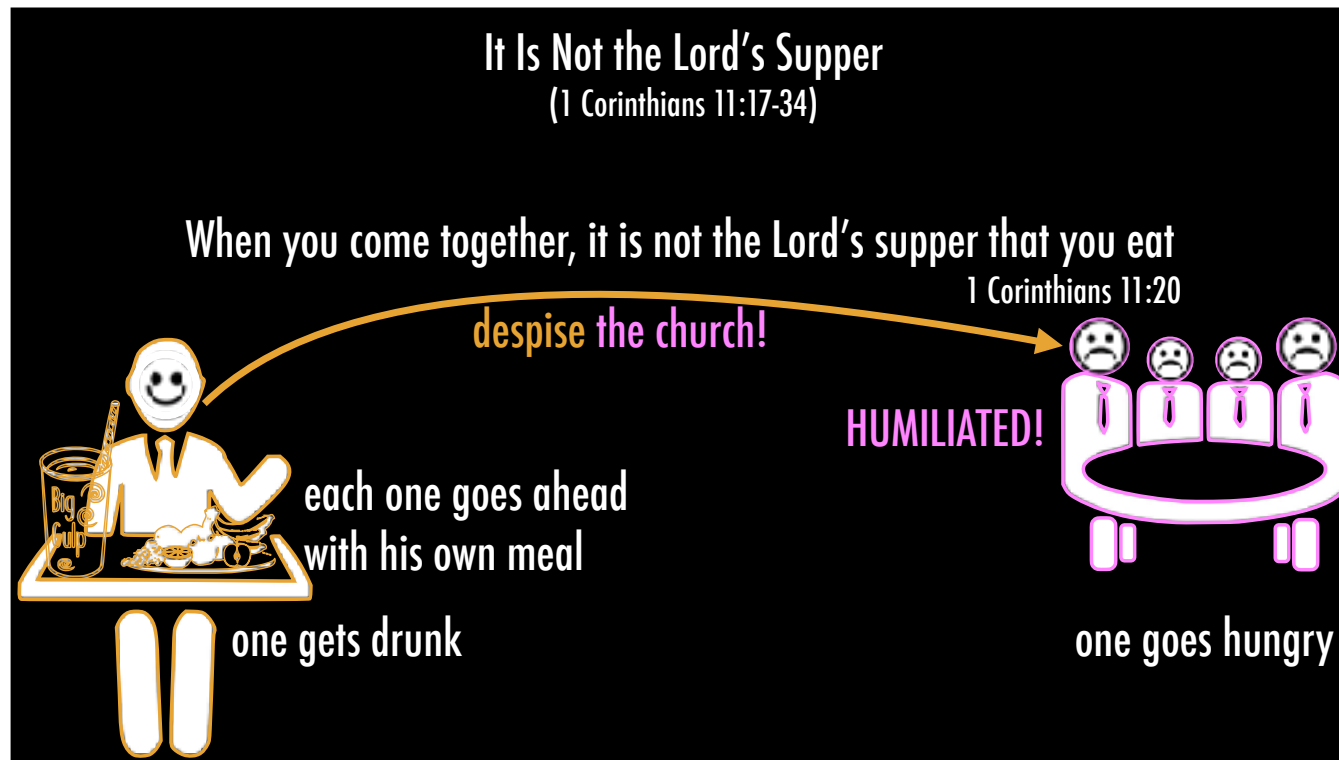


one goes hungry

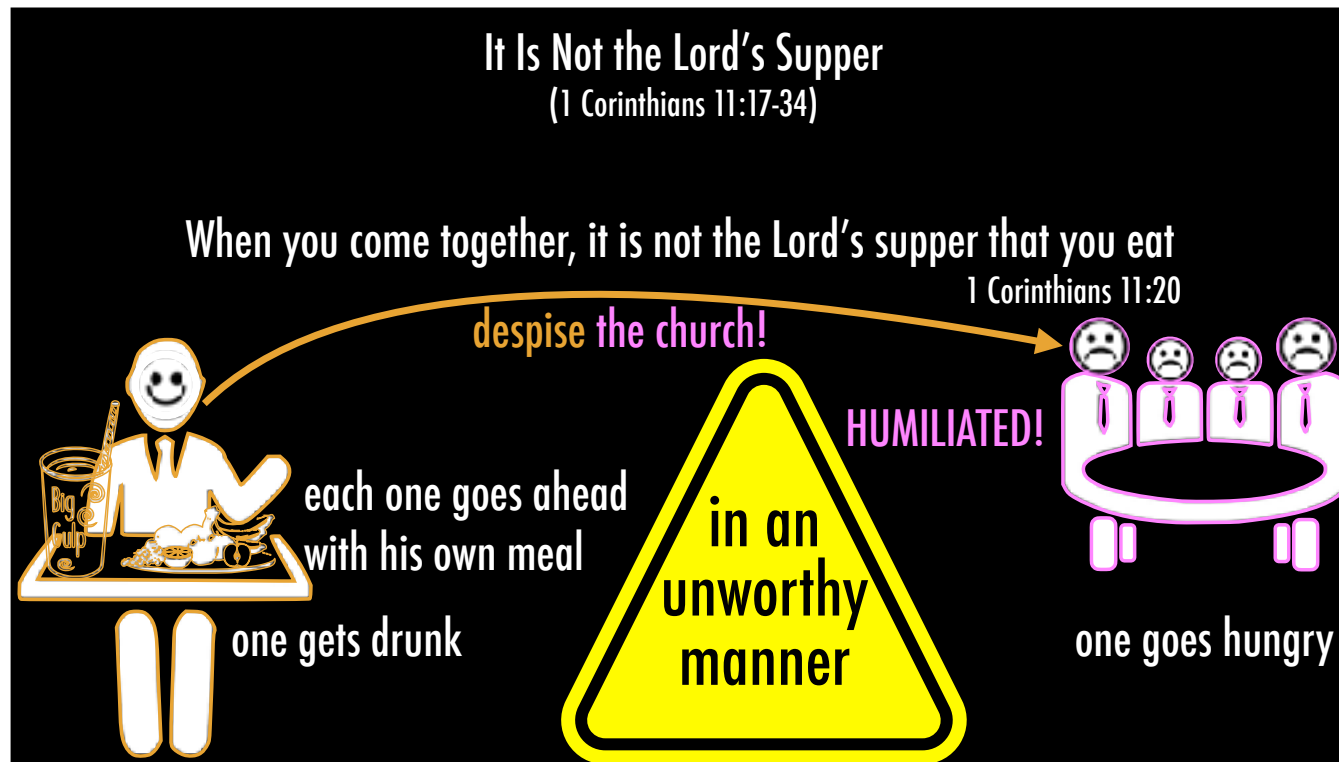
- One goes hungry, another gets drunk.
  - **What!**
  - Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?



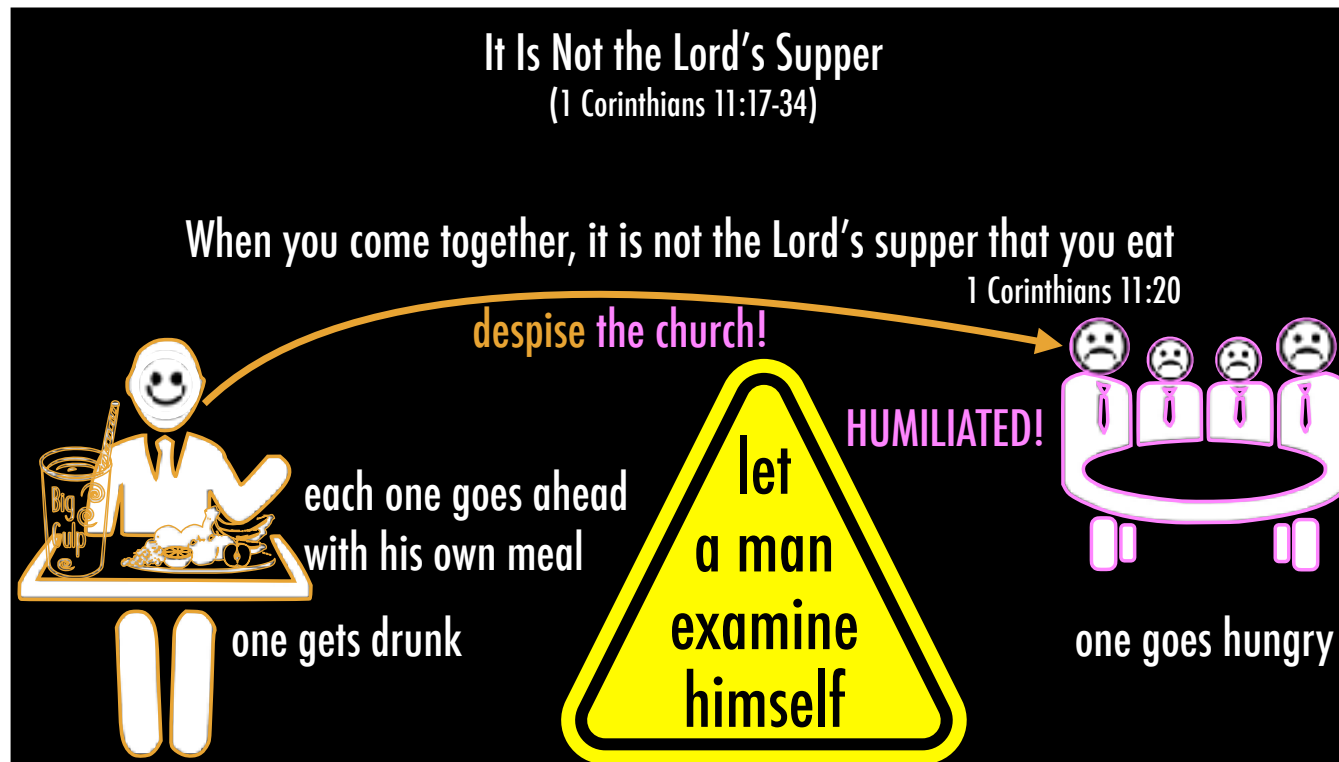
- Or do you despise the **church of God** and **humiliate those** who have nothing?
  - What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this?
  - No, I will not.
- Despise the church ... not an institution or organization
  - He's talking about this group of saints
- How are these siblings despising their siblings?
  - Why are they?
    - Were they just being mean?
    - Did they even know it?



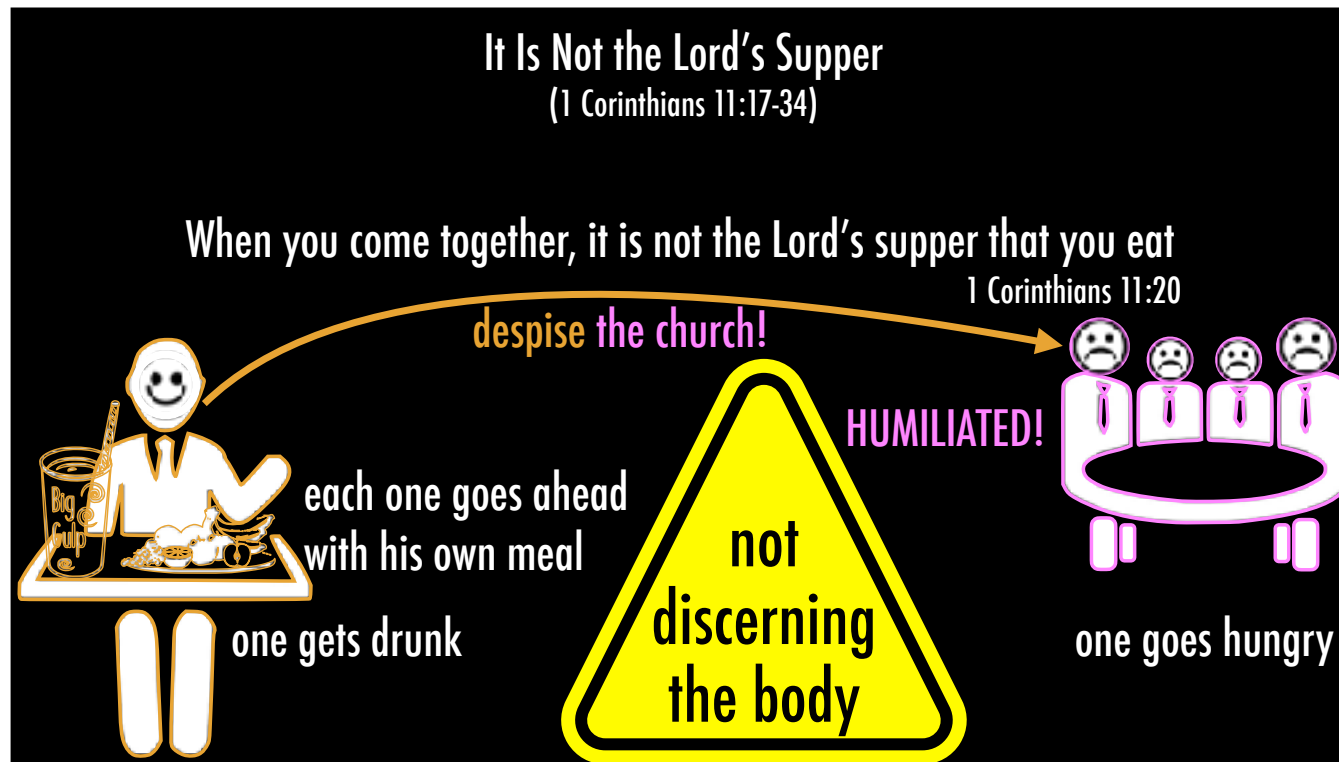
- At least in part we see that some of the brethren were despising and humiliating their siblings.
  - The thing is, they apparently didn't realize what they were doing?
    - That seems far fetched.
  - But they clearly didn't have a problem eating their own food and not sharing.
  - Paul's problem with their actions is not just that they are eating a meal as if it's the supper.
    - It's also how they are treating their siblings!



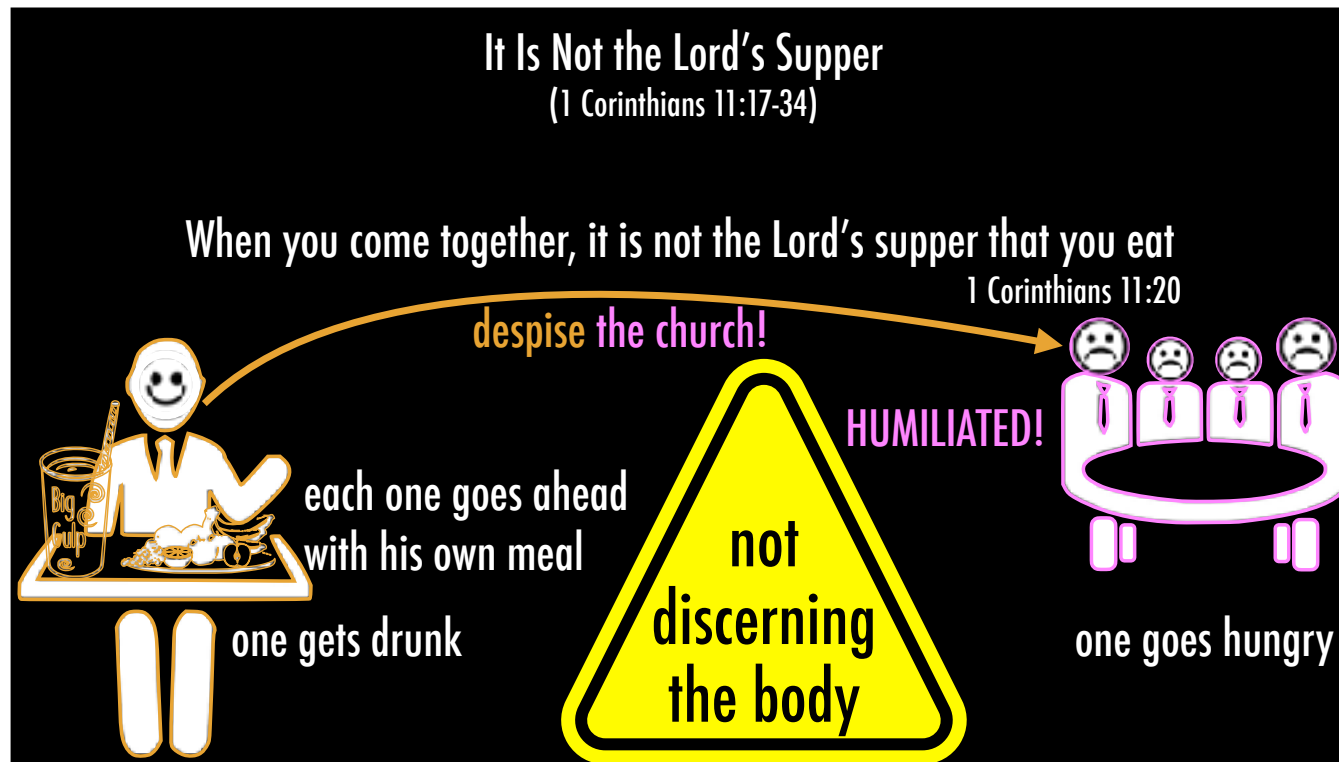
- In vs. 27: he speaks of this as “an unworthy manner”
  - Traditionally, we’ve thought of this as eating a meal, or not being properly focused on Jesus
  - I think we need to add, because of context, being focused on our siblings! (the church)
    - Is going on ahead with my own meal not unworthy of my siblings?
    - Is being filled not unworthy when my siblings go hungry?
  - It’s not just that they confused the supper with a meal ... they had turned into their own personal meal.



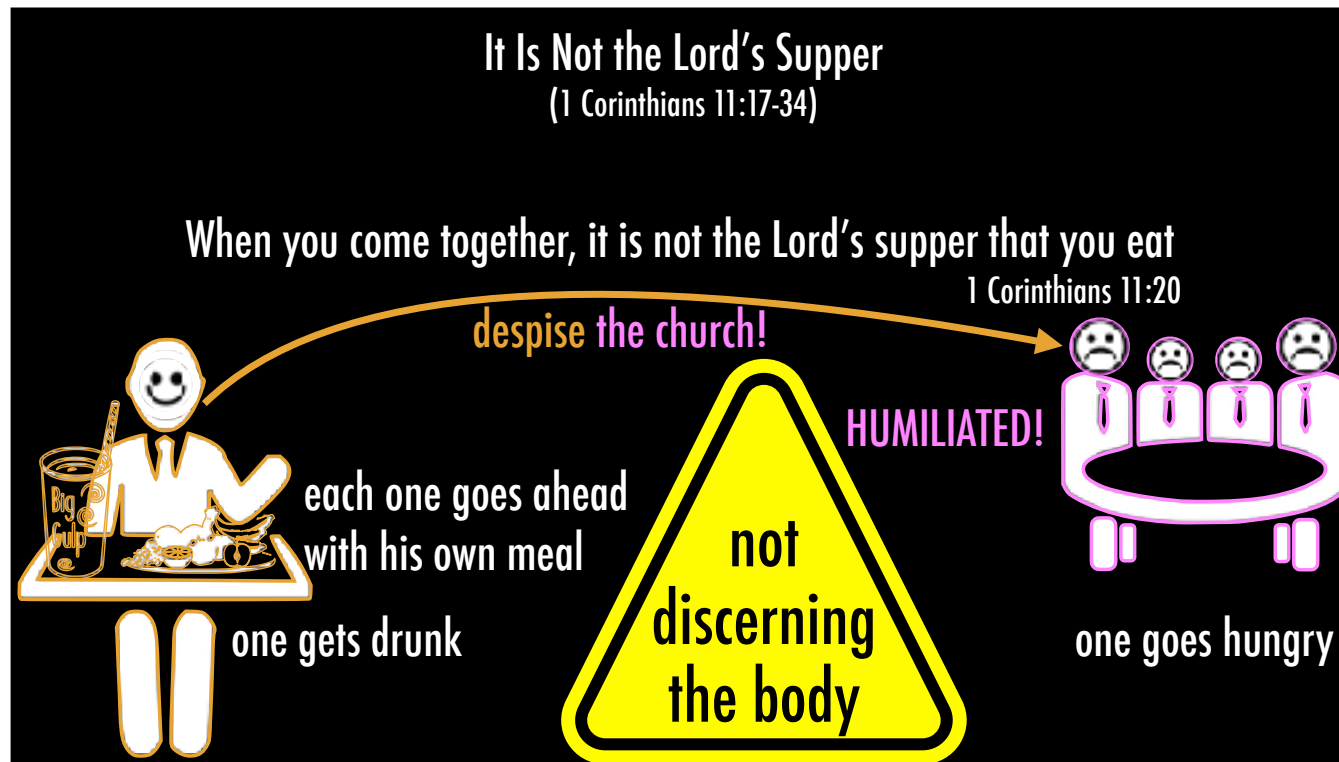
- in vs 28: he speaks of “let a man examine himself”
  - Traditionally, this is seen as a call to personal consideration of one’s righteousness, sins, etc. “Have I lived well enough?” “Have I repented of all my sins?”
  - Consider for a moment that you are the brother eating a meal and getting full while others go hungry.
    - Paul is telling THAT MAN to examine what he is doing
      - The implication is that he doesn’t understand how he’s treating his siblings by his selfish meal.



- In vs. 29: he speaks of not “discerning the body”
  - Traditionally, this “the body” is interpreted as Jesus’ body. Which is plausible since it’s about the death of Jesus.
  - It’s could also be speaking of the church, though.
    - The church is called the body — at least 10X
      - (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 1:23; 4:4; 4:12; 5:23, 30; Colossians 1:18; 2:19; 3:15)

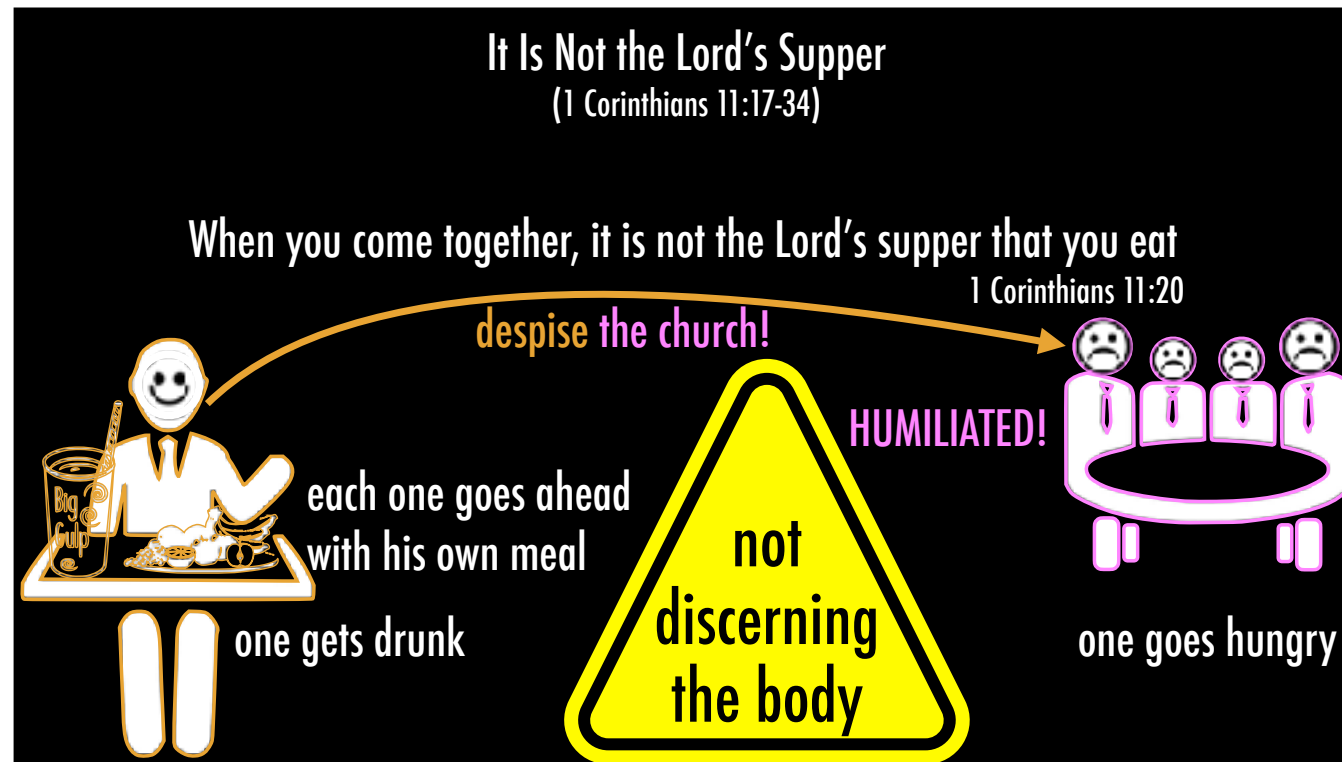


- In this context does it makes more sense that “discerning the body” is about the actual body of Jesus or about the church?
  - You have to decide after careful thought
  - For me ... Paul seems to be referring to the church
    - 1) (NET) 29 For the one who eats and drinks without **careful regard** for the body eats and drinks judgment against himself.
    - (NET Bible Notes - Full Notes) tn The word more literally means, "judging between, recognizing, distinguishing."



- 2) Acts 15:9 and he made no **distinction** between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.
- 3) James 2:3-4 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," 4 have you not then made **distinctions** among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?





- 4) (ESV Study Bible Notes) According to this second view, “without discerning the body” would mean “not understanding that Christians, since they are the body of Christ, should act like Christ when they assemble.”
- 5) Therefore .... come together to eat ... WAIT
  - TDNT: “to accept” and “to await”
  - Vine: “to wait for”
  - Paul conclusion is that they wait for each other.
    - Not just ... observe it right.
    - But also ... treat each other correctly.

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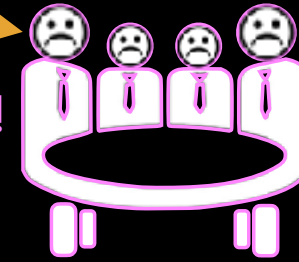
despise the church!



each one goes ahead  
with his own meal

one gets drunk

HUMILIATED!



one goes hungry

- 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.
- 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.
- 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

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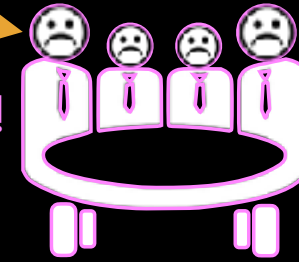
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- To me, Paul is saying that at the root of the problems in partaking of the supper is this base value of individualism.
- It's particularly poignant to Paul because not only were they not eating the supper as he had taught them,
- But they were exalting themselves above their siblings and making their siblings feel bad.
- That's why their coming together was for the worse.... it enforced their individualism and not their brotherhood.

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- 23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.



- Paul reminds the Corinthian siblings that the supper is intended to
  - remember Jesus' death and our covenant with him
  - proclaim his death
- Hebrews 2:10-11 (ESV) 10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,
- The supper is not just about my relationship with Jesus and what he did for me.
- It's also about what he did for all us bringing us into this family and being siblings.

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- 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (ESV) 16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.
- Participation = sharing, fellowship, joint participation
  - Share in blood (death .... but resurrection also points to life)



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- share in body (It's really all bound up in one .... maybe trying to hard to define definitively)
  - many are one body!
  - The communion definitely points to our unity as a group of believers.
    - Anything that would distract or contradict that idea of one body when we are partaking of the supper needs to be fixed.
      - Whether it's how we partake or attitudes
      - Or how we are treating each other or thinking of each other

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- Now, then, I must consider how I am treating my brothers and sisters, and thinking about my brothers and sisters.
  - We didn't eat individual meals today ... so not an exact parallel
- But have I done or thought things that exalts myself and humiliates my brother?
  - This morning?
  - Have I judged them based on when they arrived? (always late, didn't come to class)
  - Or that they didn't greet me?
  - Or that they are wearing something that I disapprove of?
  - Or they seem to be poor? or sad? or upset?



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- Maybe they keep their head down? Why?
- Maybe they aren't singing? Why?
- Maybe they don't seem engaged? Why?
- What have I said to them? Sneering? Sarcastic? Accusatory?
- How have I looked at them? Do they see the disapproval in my eyes?
- Have I chosen just to stay away? To ignore them? To act like they aren't there?
- Have I despised you?
- Have I humiliated you?
- And the answer is not just in what I think of myself.
  - Rather it is in what they think of me.

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- The Lord's Supper reminds us that we are one body because of Jesus' body and blood.
- Let's remember that we are brothers and sisters because of what our brother did for us.
  - Let's be careful that nothing that I do would despise Him nor despise my sibling.
- Let's rejoice that we share in this together.

**Let brotherly love continue.**

Hebrews 13:1

We implore you  
on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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## Do You Despise the Church?

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Synopsis: Paul reminds the brothers and sisters in Corinth that when we come together to worship we must be especially mindful that even in partaking of the supper we may humiliate and despise our siblings. It's a vital warning for us to be wary of the individualism that exalts myself over brothers and sisters.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**