

### Mealtime Merits

- Meals and memorials often have a "moment of silence" to honor and remember people who are no longer with the group.
- \* The deceased or absent person's contributions are often addressed and celebrated.
- Meals are used as rallying points in most cultures.
- Communing around food builds unity within a group.



# ISBE on the "Agape" Feast

\* In the opinion of the great majority of scholars the Agape was a meal at which not only bread and wine but all kinds of viands were used, a meal which had the double purpose of satisfying hunger and thirst and giving expression to the sense of Christian brotherhood. At the end of this feast, bread and wine were taken according to the Lord's command, and after thanksgiving to God were eaten and drunk in remembrance of Christ and as a special means of communion with the Lord Himself and through Him with one another.

But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

## "Love" Feasts?

- \* Divided and fighting- "I am of..." (See as an example 1 Corinthians 1:11-13 and 3:4-9)
- \* Self-important arrogance- refusing to wait on the others.
- Paul tells them if they want to behave like this, don't join the feasts or eat before they come!
- They are supposed to be the Family
  of God but they are behaving as if it's
  "Favorites of God."



For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 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." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

# What Are We Doing?

- \* We proclaim our unity as His people. The "you" in this passage is **plural**.
- \* Christians remember and proclaim His death when observing this festival.
- \* Christians are to partake of this memorial until He returns. We are announcing that He will come back!

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

# Unworthy Partaking?

- \* Αναξιως (anaxios)unworthy or careless manner
- Are we reflecting on the Family of God?
- Are we reflecting on the sacrifice of Jesus?
- \* Are we anticipating His return?

- Are we thinking about our day?
- Is the Lord Supper "snack time?"
- Are we thinking about what comes next in the worship?
  (Sermon, offering, next song, etc)

But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

## Self-Examination

- \* Are we seeking to put Christ first in our lives?
- \* Are we seeking to remove sin from our lives daily so that we can grow to be more like Christ?
- \* Are we seeking peace with our brethren?
- \* Are we reflecting on the fact that we are made worthy ONLY through Jesus?



## Body Examination

- \* The same Greek word is used for a person's physical body and the church because it is the "Body of Christ."
- Paul has been addressing the Lord Supper from a unity and humility setting.
- He is probably referring to both an individual and group examination.

## Body Examination and Us

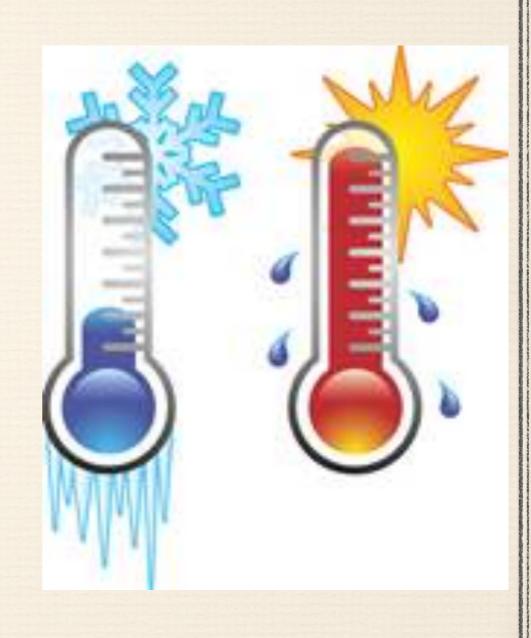
- \* Is this Body dedicated to Christ?
- \* Are there things the Body needs to do to be more pleasing to God? (I.e. Sins that need to be addressed and eliminated)
- \* Are we seeking unity while placing others before ourselves?
- \* What are we doing/thinking about during this reflection/examination time?



For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

# Serious Responsibility

- \* Some were ignoring their responsibilities to the Body & the Lord. Paul calls them "weak, sick, & asleep."
- The Lord takes our communing & our Communion very seriously.
- \* Refusing to honor Christ as a unified Body leads to judgment and condemnation if we refuse to change.



So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

#### The Lord Supper's Components Matter To God...

- \* Unity...MATTERS
- \* Humility...MATTERS
- \* Remembering...MATTERS
- \* Anticipation...MATTERS

How Are We Doing?

How can we do better?

#### How are we doing?



Christ's Church in Rock Springs



"For we are the temple of the living God."—2 Corinthians 6:16