

1 Corinthians: True Freedom is Peace in Christ

April 17, 2011

Freedom to have Christ's Supper, not one's own...[1 Cor. 11.23-34]

Read 1 Cor. 11.27f...

Communion is a justifying/forgiving means of grace for the faithful, that is, unto their sanctification...

- First teaching and confession of the one faith (after Confirmation)
- Faith in both the real presence AND all the doctrine of the church (closed communion)
- Only for those of ACTIVE faith (confessing both the doctrine and all their sins)
- Towards the perfect faith and life of the citizen of heaven; eating and drinking (with) the Lord.
- Sanctification is necessary as a second thing to justification. True justification must lead to sanctification. Those who do not truly want and strive after sanctification are not recognizably in faith.
- This is the warning of Paul in this segment....abusing the sacrament is receiving it to judgment. As it is corporate, public act distribution, this warning is not merely to individuals but to congregations.

Read I Cor. 12...

1. What is THE gift of God to the redeemed? Is there any difference in this gift? Faith?
2. What sin is manifest what gifts are recognized in the church? What can that sin lead to? What must be said of those who leave the church because of the church's other members?
3. In differentiation of the gifts is there a priority in the importance of those gifts? Why? Is this a priority in the importance of the members? Why/why not?

Read I Cor. 13...

1. Why does Paul not here recommend taking a spiritual gift survey to see how you must fit together with your brothers and sisters in the church. How are spiritual gift surveys exactly the opposite of Paul's solution to divisions caused by jealousy surfaced in Ch. 12?
2. What aspects of love make it more important than faith and hope? In expressing love in this world why must faith be the master of love, if love is more important than faith (see vs. 6)?

For next week please read chapters 14 and 15 of I Corinthians.