Worthy to Partake

The elements of the Lord’s Supper are symbols of the broken body and blood of the Lord Jesus.

The Lord’s Supper is a celebration of the New Covenant.

In 1 Corinthians 11:27-31, the Lord warns us of partaking in the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner.

It is the blood of Jesus Christ that makes us worthy.

1 Corinthians 11:27-31
[27] Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. [28] Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. [29] For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. [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.

We can do nothing to make ourselves worthy.

Ephesians 2:8-9
[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

1. Salvation is GOD’s free gift.

2. It is nothing we have earned.

3. It is nothing we can earn.

4. We can never be good enough to be righteous in GOD’s eyes.

We are sinners by nature and by choice.

Romans 3:23
[23] For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We can never be worthy.
When we accept Christ into our life by faith as GOD’s only gift for salvation:

1. We are made worthy.
2. Jesus makes us worthy by His blood.

3. Jesus makes us worthy by his substitutionary sacrifice for our sins.

4. He took our sins on Himself and gave us His righteousness.

Paul’s instructions:

Take the Lord’s Supper thoughtfully because we are proclaiming that Christ died for our sins.

1 Corinthians 11:26
[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

We should take it worthily, with due reverence and respect.

1 Corinthians 11:27
[27] Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.

Church members were rushing into it without thinking of its meaning.

1. They became guilty of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus.

2. Instead of honoring His sacrifice, they were sharing in the guilt of those who crucified the Lord Jesus.

3. No one is worthy.

4. We are all sinners saved by GOD’s grace.

5. He made us worthy by His death for us.

We should examine ourselves for any unconfessed sin or resentful attitude.

1 Corinthians 11:28
[28] Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1. We should prepare ourselves for Communion by looking inward.

2. We MUST confess all known sin.
3. We MUST ask the Lord to reveal all unknown sin to us so we can confess it.

4. We MUST resolve any differences with others.

5. These actions remove any barriers that affect our relationship with Christ and other believers.

6. Awareness of sin should not keep you from Communion - it should drive you to participate in it.

We are to be considerate of others.

1 Corinthians 11:33
[33]So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

1. We are to wait until everyone is here

2. We are to do it an orderly and unified manner

Reflection:
When we come to the table of the Lord’s Supper:

1. Spend some time in prayer.

2. Confess all known sin.

3. Ask the Lord to reveal to you any unknown sin.

4. Confess that sin.

5. If there is a brother or sister you have an issue with, go to them and resolve it.

6. Serve the Lord’s Supper.