

1 Corinthians 11:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

Analysis

And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation—Final instruction. Εἴ τις πεινᾷ (if anyone is hungry)—if your primary purpose is satisfying physical hunger, eat at home. The church gathering isn't for gluttony but worship. This distinguishes agape feast (fellowship meal) from the Lord's Supper proper (sacramental meal). Over time, the church separated these—communion became distinct from common meals.

That ye come not together unto condemnation (ἴνα μὴ εἰς κρίμα συνέρχησθε) —the stakes are high. Church assemblies should edify, not incur judgment (v. 17: 'not for the better, but for the worse'). Paul's concern is pastoral: he wants the Corinthians' gatherings to bless, not curse them. **And the rest will I set in order when I come** (τὰ δὲ λοιπὰ ὡς ἀν ἔλθω διατάξομαι)—other issues await Paul's visit, but these needed immediate written correction. This hints at ongoing problems in Corinth (see 2 Corinthians) and Paul's apostolic authority to set church order.

Historical Context

The early church's agape feast combined fellowship meal with Eucharist. By the second century, they were separated—communion became liturgical, while communal meals continued separately. Paul's instruction here may have prompted this development. The distinction protected the Table's sacredness while

maintaining Christian fellowship meals. Ignatius, Pliny's letter to Trajan, and Justin Martyr's writings show this evolution. Paul's teaching shaped Christian worship: the Table is sacred, not casual, and church gatherings are for mutual edification, not selfish consumption.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What is the proper relationship between fellowship meals and the Lord's Supper—should they be combined or separate?
2. How can churches ensure their gatherings are 'for the better' (edifying) rather than 'for the worse' (incurring judgment)?
3. What does Paul's promise to 'set in order' other things teach about apostolic authority and church governance?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	δὲ	τις	πεινᾶ	ἐν	οἴκω	ἐσθιέτω	ἴνα	μὴ	εἰς
G1487	And	G5100	hunger	at	home	let him eat	G2443	G3361	unto
G1161			G3983	G1722	G3624	G2068			G1519

κρίμα	συνέρχησθε.	Τὰ	δὲ	λοιπὰ	ώς	ἄν	ἔλθω
condemnation	together	G3588	And	the rest	when	G302	I come
G2917	G4905	G1161		G3062	G5613		G2064

διατάξομαι

will I set in order

G1299

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 4:19 (Parallel theme): But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

1 Corinthians 7:17 (Parallel theme): But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (Parallel theme): Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Titus 1:5 (Parallel theme): For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

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