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Dinners

1 CORINTHIANS 11:17, "But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse." (ESV)

- Not even neutral: their gatherings actually make things worse
  - Although many have ridiculed Paul, he does not hold back
- Potluck
  - The "Love Feast" was in honor of the Lord's Supper/Communion
    - 1 Corinthians 10:16 → the Corinthians knew the significance of the Lord's Supper.
    - Members brought a dish to pass
    - It seems this had become a way of displaying wealth or importance

1 CORINTHIANS 11:18, "For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized." (ESV)

- Factions = αἵρεσις
  - Divisions can be an opportunity
  - The Corinthians are missing it

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1 CORINTHIANS 11:21, "For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk." (ESV)

- Rather than imitating Christ who served his own disciples at the Last Supper, the Corinthians are imitating pagan dinner practices
  - Last Supper = Passover
    - "Brothers" and "family" language
    - Goes ahead = takes = προλαμβάνω
- Προ added for emphasis
  - Degenerated into "private dinners"
- "Haves" and "Have Nots"
  - Common for private dinners (symposium) to portion food and wine according to status or "importance" of guest
    - The "have nots" were humiliated
    - "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." (1 Corinthians 11:22, ESV)
- Once again, Paul cuts down on the areas the Corinthians are taking pride
- Rather than emulating Christ's act of self-sacrifice (literally becoming the Passover Lamb), the Corinthians have made this sacred dinner a chance to elevate themselves

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1 CORINTHIANS 11:23, "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, 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.'" (ESV)

- "Imitate me" & "examine yourselves"
  - There are consequences for those who don't: "That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died." (1 Corinthians 11:30, ESV)
- Transubstantiation, Consubstantiation, Calvin & Zwingli

1 CORINTHIANS 11:34, "…if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come." (ESV)

- More than manners

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Loren Cunningham & David Joel Hamilton, Why Not Women?, Bruce W. Winter, After Paul Left Corinth, Timothy Brookins, Corinthian Wisdom, Stoic Philosophy, and the Ancient Economy, N.T. Wright, The New Testament in Its World