

17 But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse.

The Corinthians had lost the sense of Christian fellowship.

18 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.

There were divisions (or “schisms”) amongst them, which were **leading to heresies** (or “sects”) being formed in the church.

19 For there must also be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you.”

1. The division, or schism (Gk. *schisma*), is a difference of opinion, thought and feeling existing within the assembly.
2. A heresy (Gk. *hairesis*) is a sect, or party, formed among the saints to maintain a particular opinion, or to follow a chosen teacher.

20 “Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper (table),

1. “This is not the Lord’s supper; this is a debacle!”
2. they were invalidating the spiritual significance of the Lord’s supper.

21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

The Lord's table is divinely intended to bring the saints together.

22 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.”

1. In the first half of the verse, Paul charges that their conduct is a sin against the whole church.
2. Then as the word and introduces the second half of the verse, he charges that they sin against the poor as individuals.