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### “Unworthy Manner”

#### **1 Corinthians 11:27–28**

*27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*

*28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*

This term found in these verses, “unworthy manner” (Gr. 371 — ἀνάξιος, anaxiós), describes the inappropriate and disrespectful way some of the Corinthian believers were partaking of the Lord's Supper. We see in the prior verses in 1 Corinthians 11 what they were doing that caused them to partake in an unworthy manner.

#### **1 Corinthians 11:18-22**

*18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. 20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. 21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? 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 do not praise you.*

We see in these verses that they were doing four different things in an unworthy manner. First, there were divisions among them. Second, they had formed factions with their own leaders. Third, they were being completely selfish and rude in the distribution of what they were calling communion. Finally, they were showing partiality in their treatment of one another.

By failing to properly discern the body of Christ as they gathered, they magnified their divisions and selfishness, placing themselves in stark contrast to the sacrifice Jesus made with His body for the Church.

By not recognizing the requirement of unity among believers and by not properly examining themselves, Paul explains in verse 28 that they were showing disrespect for the Lord and were not taking communion properly.

If we fail in this requirement established when Jesus instituted this tradition, we essentially deny our unity with the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ Himself, and with the body of believers with whom we gather.