

“But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together.” 1 Corinthians 11:17 NLT

[lectio] // 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-22

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

[meditatio]

This thought needs more exploring. What if Paul's admonishment to the churches in Corinth reveal a broader truth. DRIFT happens! The Corinthians drifted towards a hippie experience of the Lord's supper - communion. But what if it was possible that the other extreme is also true. What if moving the other direction, ie. too systematized, is equally "harmful." What if moving towards ritual, systems and liturgical extremes are just as bad? When has the church recognized that the other side of the spectrum, a move towards religious reduction is just harmful? It is completely possible that a once "protective" stance to guard against frivolity, could subtly turn into a "controlled" stance by setting up requirements and methods that are contrary to Jesus' intent to remember by celebrating the memories of sacrifice and salvation. Why do we, as the church, not guard against the "perfection/elder brother" side of our nature? It seems, too often, we have done this to other practices, values and sacraments (like baptism).

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

This part puzzles me, "First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it. But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized!" 1 Corinthians 11:18-19 NLT What did Paul mean when he wrote, "those of you who have God's approval?" Maybe I'm all wrong about this, but I have watched legalism and a Pharisaical attitude weaken as many folk's faith as careless frivolity. Am I making a bigger deal out of this than I should? Who picks on being "too holy" looking or negative about strict compliance and rules? 🙌 raised.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root