

As a minister of the gospel, I ask: are you able to meet these conditions? Am I?

If not, you stand in danger of eating this bread and drinking this cup of the Lord unworthily. And if you participate unworthily, you invite God's judgment on yourself.

However, this warning is not intended to be a hindrance to the table of the Lord. Paul does not say, "Don't come." Rather he says, "Examine yourself."

Let us examine ourselves to see whether we can worthily participate. Our Lord Himself calls us to come to this blessed table. He says, "take, eat," and says, "do this in remembrance of Me."

If we hold back because we feel unworthy, then let us examine ourselves to see where our unworthiness lies.

Do we feel unworthy because our sins have never been forgiven? Then let us come to Christ and receive Him as the one who died for us that we might have forgiveness.

Do we feel unworthy because we have experienced sin and failure and defeat in our lives? Then let us come confessing our sins, remembering that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sins.

Do we feel unworthy because our love is so lukewarm and our faith so weak? Then let us come to the foot of the cross and see His love flowing down in His own life-blood, and hear His words of promise and hope, and present ourselves once more as living sacrifices on the altar of God.

Let us indeed confess that we are altogether unworthy, but let us find all of our worthiness in the One who is infinitely worthy! Let us obey His call and come to His table and make Christ crucified the focus of this service!