

The following is an outline of our audio teaching, "Discerning the Body," at The Powerhouse Ministry (<http://powerhouse-ministry.org>).

---

## Discerning The Body

Most denominations observe the sacrament or ordinance of communion. Most of us have heard that we have to be worthy to receive... and that eating or drinking unworthily will bring damnation upon a person.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:28-30 (Amplified Bible)**

<sup>28</sup>Let a man [thoroughly] examine himself, and [only when he has done] so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

<sup>29</sup>For anyone who eats and drinks without discriminating and recognizing with due appreciation that [it is Christ's] body, eats and drinks a sentence (a verdict of judgment) upon himself.

<sup>30</sup>That [careless and unworthy participation] is the reason many of you are weak and sickly, and quite enough of you have fallen into the sleep of death.

We want to properly discern that the elements represent the Body and Blood of Jesus. However, I believe it is *also* important to discern the body of Christ... that is, the believers in your church or fellowship are members of the body. You must treat them properly or condemnation can come.

## Walking in Love

It is important to walk in love towards those in the body of Christ.

### **John 13:33-35 (Amplified Bible)**

<sup>33</sup>[Dear] little children, I am to be with you only a little longer. You will look for Me and, as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: you are not able to come where I am going.

<sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another.

<sup>35</sup>By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves].

### **John 15:11-13 (Amplified Bible)**

<sup>11</sup>I have told you these things, that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing.

<sup>12</sup>This is My commandment: that you love one another [just] as I have loved you.

<sup>13</sup>No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends.

# Obeying His Commandment

The scriptures show us that obeying this commandment is vital for receiving answered prayer.

## 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:22-24 (Amplified Bible)

<sup>22</sup>And we receive from Him whatever we ask, because we [watchfully] obey His orders [observe His suggestions and injunctions, follow His plan for us] and [habitually] practice what is pleasing to Him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is His order (His command, His injunction): that we should believe in (put our faith and trust in and adhere to and rely on) the name of His Son Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and that we should love one another, just as He has commanded us.

<sup>24</sup>All who keep His commandments [who obey His orders and follow His plan, live and continue to live, to stay and] abide in Him, and He in them. [They let Christ be a home to them and they are the home of Christ.] And by this we know and understand and have the proof that He [really] lives and makes His home in us: by the [Holy] Spirit Whom He has given us.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> John 1:4-6 (Amplified Bible)

<sup>4</sup>I was greatly delighted to find some of your children walking (living) in [the] Truth, just as we have been commanded by the Father [Himself].

<sup>5</sup>And now I beg you, lady (Cyria), not as if I were issuing a new charge (injunction or command), but [simply recalling to your mind] the one we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.

<sup>6</sup>And what this love consists in is this: that we live and walk in accordance with and guided by His commandments (His orders, ordinances, precepts, teaching). This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you continue to walk in love [guided by it and following it].

# The Consequences

Those who fail to keep His commandments may be in a world of hurt...

## Matthew 7:20-22 (Amplified Bible)

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, you will fully know them by their fruits.

<sup>21</sup>Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.

<sup>22</sup>Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name?

## Your Vindication

If you are walking in love and your brother or sister fails to do so, don't *trip*. Pray for them... and bless them... and love them.

### **Matthew 5:43-45 (Amplified Bible)**

<sup>43</sup>You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy;

<sup>44</sup>But I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

<sup>45</sup>To show that you are the children of your Father Who is in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the wicked and on the good, and makes the rain fall upon the upright and the wrongdoers [alike].

### **Psalms 86:17 (Amplified Bible)**

Show me a sign of [Your evident] goodwill and favor, that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because You, Lord, [will show Your approval of me when You] help and comfort me.