

INTRODUCTION – 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER ELEVEN

This chapter is apportioned with four (4) sections in the bible that reveal Paul's messages to the Corinthians for our study, understanding, obedience, blessings and edification.

1. Head Coverings: **1 Corinthians 11:1 – 16**
2. Conduct at the Lord's Supper: **1 Corinthians 11:17 – 22**
3. Institution of the Lord's Supper: **1 Corinthians 11:23 – 26**
4. Examine Yourself: **1 Corinthians 11:27 – 34**

Clearly it portrays Paul as the spiritual father to the Church of Corinth with interest and passion to the faith of the Corinthian Believers, Christian teachings and doctrines, spiritual growth and maturity.

The first section revealed Paul's commendation of praise to the Corinthians Believers because of higher level of obedience to his instructions and interventions. This joy inspired him to instruct them on head coverings symbolic of submissiveness, and authority with humanity and divinity. It revealed levels of glory as heads where obedience and submissiveness ensure order and peace in the home, Church and God. It revealed the head of the woman as man because the woman was taken from the man. It revealed the head of the man as Christ because man was created in the image and glory of God. It revealed that Christ's is God's because God is the Creator and the Father of all.

The second section revealed Paul's discontentment of the Corinthians Believers with regards to negative attitudes portrayed at the conduct of the Lord's Supper. He rebuked them for their backsliding attitude of having self – beliefs contrary to the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. He realized that motives for Church meetings and gatherings were wrong to defeat the blessing of edification. Hence their carnality displayed with regards to how they despised the Lord's Supper with eating it to satisfy their flesh other than I revelation to establish their faith and connection with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The third section revealed Paul's reference to the origination of the Lord's Supper by our Lord Jesus Christ to affirm its conduct and participation. By this truth to the Church of Corinth, he emphasized in doing it the Lord's way to achieve His purposes and righteousness. For the power of the Body and Blood of Christ still worked for their redemption in the Christian faith anytime they practiced it as a Church for edification. The charge to partake of the Holy Communion in remembrance of Christ was reiterated by Paul to enforce its participation in the Church. With scriptural basis and origination by our Lord Jesus Christ, the Church was reminded that its practice enhances our Christian faith with the benefits of commitment, faithfulness and hope of His second coming; proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

The fourth section revealed Paul's message to the Corinthians Believers to examine themselves before they partake of the Lord's Table. For God was ready to bless those who partook it in righteousness but judge those who partook it in sin; being guilty of the body and blood of Jesus.

In his word of counsel, he told the Corinthians to judge themselves to avert the Lord's judgment or allow the Lord to judge and chasten them in order to escape His judgment of the world. He counseled them also to perceive and approach the Lord's Table with spirituality and not carnality. They were to come together to the Lord's Table in the spirit of unity and not in divisions of eating at home and giving a second place to the holy sacrament. Besides he cautioned them against coming to eat of Lord's Table like breakfast, lunch and supper but counseled them to keep such eating and drinking at home. Hence his famous position of self – examination to avert the Lord's judgment.

To enable readers and the Churches and Body of Christ as a whole understand the eleventh chapter of Paul's epistle, I have done my best with the grace of God upon my life and ministry to explain verse by verse or combination of verses in bringing out the quality of Paul's messages to the Corinthians.

Like a weaned child just weaned from milk and drawn from the breasts, the word of God is taught precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little **(Isaiah 28:9 & 10)**. Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes, He shall guide us unto all truths **(John 16:13)**.

Connect to other writings of the Church and bible commentaries as the Holy Spirit enlightens your understanding because grace and truth emanated from our Lord Jesus Christ **(John 1:17)**. For this study, additional biblical information from the New King James Bible Commentary added fresh revelations to enhance understanding.

Study and know its relevance to your life first as a Christian before you apply it to other Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders. I trust God that you will be equipped with His knowledge and continuous belief in Christ's salvation work on the cross as tied to obedience, knowledge, spiritual wisdom, humility, spiritual growth and maturity. You are not alone because the Holy Spirit is Your Helper.

The focus here is your obedience to gain insight and understanding of Paul's messages unto spiritual growth and maturity of the Church. It is my prayer and hope that you shall be an instrument in the Lord's service to bring sound Christian teachings and practices to your local Church and Body of Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen. Hallelujah!

WHOM DO YOU RESEMBLE? JESUS OR THE DEVIL

INSPIRATION

According to the dictionary meaning of imitate, it is about becoming like somebody or following the footsteps of somebody whose habits and character are worth emulating. It is to behave in a similar way to someone or something else, or to copy the speech or behaviour. But the other meaning of imitation with regards to impersonation and unwholesome products is the substitute of the original.

From the beginning of creation, God's intentions has been for man in a generic sense to depend on Him and His word for obedience, submissiveness and prosperity. The bible says that God created man in the image of Him the Creator and His likes in heaven (**Genesis 1:27**). Besides woman was taken from man who bears the image of God and therefore man and woman resembled God in creation (**Genesis 2:21 – 23**). Let's study further Paul's message to the Corinthians Believers.

1 Corinthians 11:1 – Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

Having instructed, cautioned, warned and counseled the Corinthian Christians, Apostle Paul again played his fatherly role in this eleventh chapter to shape and direct them to walk in his footsteps in Christ. This was a man whose confidence in his Christian faith was unquestionable and proven to be full of integrity as he was led by the Holy Spirit.

Know also that this was the second time Paul communicated to the Corinthians believers to imitate him to reinforce the need to have faith in Christ and obey His teachings as a Church. Truly the first time was in chapter four when Paul identified himself as their only spiritual father to them beyond the many instructors who paraded themselves. For he begot them in Christ and showed concerned for their spiritual growth and maturity even through sending of Timothy to remind them of his ways in Christ (**1 Corinthians 4:15 – 17**). However, Paul's emphasis this time was another revelation of his apostleship to the Lord Jesus Christ and the surety of their secured eternal salvation if they looked up to him as their spiritual father.

What Paul meant was that his life and ministry as an Apostle of the Lord Jesus to preach, teach, establish the Churches and instruct them in righteousness was done in love and had the approval of God to be emulated by the Corinthians Believers. He had remained faithful despite the backsliding and unfaithfulness on their part sometimes. Their identified flaws of divisions, sectarianism, and sexual immoralities and complaints meant that they needed a human personality and spiritual father like him to emulate his righteous examples. Hence the command for them to emulate him as he emulated Christ.

Once he bore the image of Christ in obedience, commitment and faithfulness, they should emulate him and bear the resemblance of Christ too. This was a form of imitation of the original but their weaknesses made it necessary to be mentored and brought up spiritually for growth and maturity purposes. This seemed to be a better offer for them because they

lacked the will and power to be independent of him in their Christian faith and Christian journey.

It is also important to note that Paul's original expectation of the Corinthians Believers was to see Jesus Christ and Him crucified among them **(1 Corinthians 2:2)**. This was Paul's desire that Christ be revealed and formed in them from the beginning. Going by this truth, Paul would have loved to say that the Corinthians Believers and him all resembled the Lord Jesus Christ. But because of their shortcomings which were signs of immaturity, he commanded them to imitate him as he imitated Christ.

The strength of his message meant that as long as they emulated his righteous examples in Christ, their salvation was secured. If only their faith in Christ were free from sectarianism **(1 Corinthians 1:10 – 17)**, divisions **(1 Corinthians 3:1 – 4)**, and complaints **(1 Corinthians 4:18 – 21)**, sexual immorality **(1 Corinthians 5:1 & 2)**, usage of worldly courts to make decisions for the Church **(1 Corinthians 6:1 – 11)** and idolism **(1 Corinthians 8:1 – 13)**. If only their faith in Christ was associated with prayers, in – depth knowledge and wisdom of God in Christ, obedience, commitment and faithfulness like Paul, their eternal salvation, spiritual growth and maturity was guaranteed.

It has some form of similarities with Israelites who rejected God as King and sought for a human king like the surrounding nations. They rejected theocracy for human kingship and rule over them from the days of the Prophet Samuel **(1 Samuel 10:1 – 27)**. The revelation here is that the Corinthians Believers should have looked to Christ in all things but their weaknesses only permitted them to have a human personality in the likes of Apostle Paul who had fathered them in ministry, as an example of God's faithfulness and righteousness. Even this, God's faithfulness was revealed as he continued to use His apostle Paul to establish them in the Christian faith.

It means to say that looking unto our Ministers is motivation and obedience to the word of God. If we can be prayerful, read and study the bible, evangelize, be committed and faithful in the Christian faith, overcome trials and temptations like them, our eternal salvation, spiritual growth unto maturity, and testimonies of God's grace in our Christian works and services would be secured. On these truth, looking unto our Ministers must make us fix our eyes on Jesus, laying aside every weight of sin that trap us, and run the Christian race with endurance. Remember that we are surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses (heavenly host) like the cheering fans of a football clubs **(Hebrews 12:1 & 2)**.

How did Saul of Tarsus the zealous Pharisee with bad record of persecuting Christians become like our Lord Jesus Christ? Simply, he repented of his sins when he encountered Jesus Christ on the way of Damascus, got healed of his blindness which was then symbolic of his worldly and evil agenda (spiritually blind), emulated Jesus Christ in his belief, received the Holy Spirit, baptism of water and the Holy Spirit, ministry, sacrificial life and concern for the Churches.

Yeah the well – known religious Saul who functioned aggressively under the Old Mosaic Covenant became the Apostle of Jesus Christ under the New Covenant. He saw things

rightly by the eye of the Holy Spirit and was the Church planter in Asia Minor which transcended into other parts of the world. It was like birds which pick seeds and drop them in other places; likewise believers (both Jews and Gentiles and freed slaves) sent the gospel of Jesus Christ to their homes and families to other places of residence and work, and nations.

DO NOT UNDERSTIMATE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO CHANGE SINNERS INTO CHRISTIANS AND MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL. YOU ARE CHRIST'S AMBASSADOR TO THE WORLD.

Be like me as I am in Christ was a divine statement by Paul to make the Corinthians live good Christian lives by the Holy Spirit and not copy the bad things of the secular world. This was necessary because history had taught him that Christians sometimes allow themselves to be corrupted by sinful people in and outside the Church; a work of the devil. They emulate their bad examples of eating food sacrificed to idols and demons instead of living by the leadings of the Holy Spirit as happened in the Corinthian Church.

ONLY HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRED MINISTERS CAN TELL THE CHURCH TO EMULATE THEM. CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST LIVE WHAT THEY PREACH AND TEACH TO SERVE AS GOOD EXAMPLES TO BOTH OLD AND YOUNG CHRISTIANS.

The bible says that Joash became king of Jerusalem at the tender age of seven and reigned forty two years. His mother's name was Ziblah of Beersheba. The testimony is that he did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest (**2 Chronicles 24:1 & 2**). Young and inexperienced king Joash was mentored by the priest Jehoiada to grow in age and spiritually unto maturity and restore true worship and repairs of the Lord's temple. Indeed if the Church has righteous ministers, members would be taught and guided in Christ for spiritual growth and maturity purposes. Mentorship and imitation are inevitable to train and prepare a Church to do exploits for the Lord.

MENTORSHIP AND IMITATION ARE A NECESSARY RIGHTEOUSNESS TO TRAIN AND PREPARE A CHURCH TO DO EXPLOITS FOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

We read

Ephesians 5:1 & 2 – Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Apostle Paul instructed the Ephesian Christians to bear semblance of God as His children; love, care, giving, sacrifice, protection, preservation. Here to be like God is embracing the totality of the gospel of Jesus Christ and believing it as an act of God's love. It means that you cannot claim to love God and be imitating Him if you do not believe and accept His offer of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. In belief, the Christian is to live a sacrificial life in love by the Holy Spirit and become like our Lord Jesus Christ. This is to be a burning sacrifice acceptable to God as followers of Christ.

CHILDREN OF GOD ARE GUIDED BY LOVE JUST THE WAY CHRIST SACRIFICED HIS LIFE ON THE CROSS FOR OUR ETERNAL SALVATION.

We read

1 John 3:2 & 3 – Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Apostle John speaks on this same subject and emphasize on the need to be holy and righteous as children of God. Christians do not live carelessly but live in the life and works of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. This is also revealed in Paul's missionary journeys where the disciples in Antioch were first called Christians **(Acts 11:25 & 26)**. Why because their lives in desires, thoughts, words and works were just like Jesus Christ. They became the light of the world and shining examples to glory to God just as Jesus said **(Matthew 5:14 – 16, Philipians 2:15)**.

WE ARE TO SHINE AS LIGHTS IN EVERY GENERATION. ARE YOU SHINING WITH THE GLORY OF GOD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Again Christians must have the desire to be like Jesus; resemble Him not by sex or physique or colour or being a Jew or hailing from Israel or tracing your biological lineage to Mary or Joseph or King David or the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob but in belief, words and works by the Holy Spirit. Grace begins to work actively when you have the mind of Christ.

We don't know how we will look like when He returns but one thing is certain: We will be like Jesus as we see Him on His glory **(1 John 3:2)**. Hence the good news to hear and practice the word of God to be pure as we wait for His second coming. We are therefore to emulate the righteous examples of our Ministers and Christian leaders.

THE HOPE OF MEETING CHRIST IN ETERNITY DOES NOT TELL US OUR EXACT FORM BUT FAITH TELLS US THAT WE SHALL BE LIKE CHRIST AS HE IS.

This makes it necessary to pray for our Ministers and Christian leaders to remain in God's grace and not backslide in sin **(1 Thessalonians 5:25, 2 Thessalonians 3:1 & 2)**. For the more we pray for our Ministers and Christian leaders, the more we become like them in Christ because we are all to become like Christ.

THOSE WHO PRAY FOR THEIR MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS RECEIVE THEIR ANNOINTING AND MANTLES FOR MINISTRY AND RIGHTEOUS WORKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. FOR GOD MAKES US EMULATE THEIR FAITH AND WORKS.

The bible speaks of Jesus as claiming to be one with the Father **(John 10:30)**. It reveals a Father and Son relationship with the same mind, Spirit and word, works and purpose.

This is revealed clearly in the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy. However, the Jews accused Jesus of the claim in being equal to God as blasphemy and wanted to stone Him because they believed in His humanity other than divinity as the Son of God. Yet Jesus escaped from their aggressive behaviour and violence **(John 10:31 – 33)**. Experience the Lord's deliverance as you escape also from the wicked plans of your enemies.

THERE IS NO GOSPEL WITHOUT THE FATHER AND SON BOND AND CONNECTION. FOR THE SON IS ONE WITH THE FATHER EVIDENT IN YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH OBEDIENCE AND LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The hope of the Christian then is to wait for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Like the parable of the ten (10) virgins, Christians must purify themselves with the gospel of Jesus Christ **(John 15:3)** and the Holy Spirit in preparation for Him; coming of the Bridegroom **(Matthew 25)**. We must be like five wise virgins with enough oil to wait and be ready for the coming of the Bridegroom; Jesus Christ. BE WISE.

PREPARATION AND READINESS ARE TO BE ENCOURAGED BY MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS SO THAT BELIEVING CHRISTIANS WILL MAKE IT TO HEAVEN ANYTIME THE LORD CALLS THEM OR APPEARS. HEY KNOW THAT GOD IS INTERESTED IN YOU AND YOUR FAITH MORE THAN THE DEVIL'S WORKS.

Let the Church be committed in Christ unto God by the Holy Spirit baptism and leading of the Holy Spirit **(2 Timothy 1:14)**. In this world of sin, evil and wickedness, we cannot but emulate the righteous examples of our Ministers and Christian leaders. We cannot emulate sinful, evil and wicked people. We cannot be associated with demons and idols and eat the foods sacrificed to them. But we can walk by faith in the footsteps and line of our Christian fathers and mothers. For the Church has been established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Himself as the Chief cornerstone **(Ephesians 2:20)**. And the Church is being built into one holy temple in the Lord Jesus where every single Believing Christian is also being built as a spiritual home in the Spirit **(Ephesians 2:21 & 22)**.

YOU MAY BE CONCERNED ABOUT LIFE'S ISSUES AND THE NEED TO CHANGE THEM FOR GOOD. LIKEWISE, GOD IS INTERESTED IN YOUR SPIRITUAL WELFARE AND THE NEED TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN NO MATTER WHAT.

IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME TO RESEMBLE JESUS CHRIST OR THE DEVIL, EITHER YOU HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT OR THE SPIRIT OF THE DEVIL SHOWING FORTH IN VARIOUS WORKS AND WAYS. IN TRUTH, YOU HAVE TO RESEMBLE JESUS CHRIST ON EARTH BEFORE YOU CAN BECOME LIKE HIM IN ETERNITY. HENCE MAKE YOUR CONFSSION OF FAITH AND WORKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT REAL AND A BLESSING.

PRAYER

Our God of possibilities and grace, we pray that the Church will emulate the Ministers and Christian leaders who obey Your word in righteousness.

Help the Church like the Corinthians Believers to grow spiritually unto maturity through emulating the righteous examples of our Ministers.

Help us to become like Jesus on earth so that we can look like Him in eternity.

We pray that the virtues of Christ shall be formed in us through the gospel and leading of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE CHURCH IS TO IMITATE THEIR MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS WHO OBEY THE COMPLETE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

IF THE MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS OF A CHURCH STOP IMITATING CHRIST, THE EYES OF THE MEMBERS WILL LOOK FOR THE RIGHTEOUS ONES AND EMULATE THEIR FAITH AND WORKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT UNTO GOD. THIS IS ALSO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE HEADSHIP OF THE TRINITY; DIFFERENT ROLES AND AUTHORITY

INSPIRATION

There is old wine and there is sweet wine. For when the sweet wine comes, it is more tasteful and satisfying than the old wine. When the expected change occurs, we cannot but talk about it. When the expected change comes, there is the opportunity to dilate on other relevant areas that needs equal attention and improvement.

The bible says that: Seven times a day I will praise You, Because of Your righteous judgments (**Psalms 119:164**). The person who walks with God would always praise Him because there is always a blessing and testimony. Let's study further on Paul's messages here.

1 Corinthians 11:2 – 5 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved.

A// PRAISE AND COMMENDATION FOR OBEDIENCE

1 Corinthians 11:2 – Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.

The joy of Apostle Paul seem to be overwhelming because there had been a turnaround among the Corinthian Church and Christians. He seemed to have won their trust and belief in his teachings, instructions and corrections. His efforts in prayers and teachings, instructions, rebukes and corrections seemed to have paid off.

He could now be confident to talk to people about their Christian faith and works in deeper dimensions. Yes letters of teachings that encouraged them in Christ and discouraged them in sin had borne fruits of righteousness. Hence his praise of them as obedient children in the Lord. Indeed when a spiritual father commends his children of obedience in the Lord, it reveals a superior blessing of surety of obtaining eternal life and living a life of righteousness than money making without Christ.

It is important to note that obedience to God's word is in levels. We have obedience based on convenience and abundance sometimes with faith for the matured, and obedience on inconvenience and faith. God appreciates and rewards the latter more than the former because it is a proof of our genuine faith. The bible testifies of Abraham's sacrifice in offering his son Isaac to God, as having passed the test of obedience to win the trust and blessing of God. The use of the phrase by God "**...now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me**" (**Genesis 22:12**). This

commanded the blessing of God upon his life and generations (**Genesis 22:15 – 18**). Indeed the Church walks in the Abrahamic blessing now because of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Truly a wise son makes a father glad But a foolish man despises his mother (**Proverbs 15:20**). For the saying “**you have done well**” is loaded with praise and blessings in the sight of God.

This is the New King James Bible Commentary: Now I praise you – reflects a genuine appreciation on Paul’s part. The Corinthians had made many mistakes but they were not totally correct. The Corinthians had followed the Apostle’s instructions in certain areas.

Specifically Paul stated two important areas:

1. **Righteous concern about him and his ministry:** Not just Apostle Paul but his Apostleship entrusted with the mantle and mission to preach Christ and declare God’s righteousness to the people, providing vision and direction; especially the Gentile world.
2. **Full obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ:** This means that they stopped doing all the pagan practices and works, religiosity in idol worship, fornication and adultery and all other sins that was dominating their lives and the Church. Now they were sensitive to the Holy Spirit and lived to promote God’s righteousness in Christ. The old nature of sin gave way for the new life of Christ by the Holy Spirit. That was Apostle Paul’s joy and praise to prove the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The bible says of John the Apostle that he rejoiced over the faith of his children in Christ. For they walked in obedience and truth as taught and expected of them (**2 John 1:4**). They proved to have attained spiritual growth and maturity in the Christian faith and their relationship with God. Indeed when the leadership of a Church does quarterly or yearly evaluation of her roles and services, and finds out that the members have obeyed their instructions, rebukes and corrections to attain spiritual growth and a sense of maturity, it will be a great joy to them.

APOSTLE PAUL’S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS REVEALED A PARADIGM SHIFT FROM REBUKES, INSTRUCTIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO PRAISE AND COMMENDATION BECAUSE OF THEIR OBEDIENCE NOW. FOR WHEN ASSESSMENT REVEALS FINDINGS OF OBEDIENCE AND GOOD BEHAVIOUR, THERE IS JOY GALORE.

WHEN CHILDREN LISTEN TO FATHERS INSTRUCTIONS AND REAP GOOD RESULTS, THIS IS JOY FULFILLED ACCOMPANIED WITH PRAISES AND TESTIMONIES.

B// HEADSHIP AND AUTHORITY; HUMANITY AND DIVINITY

1 Corinthians 11:3 – But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

In this joy and praise, Apostle Paul emphasized on the roles of God the Father, Jesus Christ as the focus and central theme of eternal salvation and works, and roles of the man and woman in a marriage union as Believing Christians. This connection is in regard to authority and obedience.

He mentioned that the head of every man is Christ and that of the woman is the man and the head of Christ is God. Paul's interest here was leadership roles in love and authority to make marriage, home and the Church obey the gospel of Jesus Christ as the word of God. This solved the misconception of headship in the Church with similarity in marriage to make clear divine authority and allegiance.

It revealed authority on the part of God the Father as the Head of Christ. It revealed also Christ submissiveness and not inferiority because the Father and Son are one and equally divine but played different roles to the attainment of eternal salvation **(John 10:30)**. This commands responsibilities and obedience at all levels just where Christ as the Son obeyed God the Father and did His will even to death on the cross **(John 17:1 – 5, Philipians 2:5 – 11)**. In the same accord, the head of the woman is the man and this commands responsibilities and obedience **(Ephesians 5:23 & 24)**.

It means to say that in the Church and marriage union, there must be vision, mission and goals targeted at improving divine and human relationships and these persons and areas must be guided by the gospel of Jesus Christ as the word of God. Know also that where ever Jesus Christ is the Head, the role of the Holy Spirit is inevitable such as of the Church, Ministers, and Believing Christians.

In other words, this divine and human order are irreplaceable because they are loaded with divine and human benefits. Any break in this link and connection means to suffer the dire consequences with the decisions of the man or woman with regards to human relationships in marriage and divine relationships with the Church.

TRUTH AND DIVINE ORDER: CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH; GOD IS THE HEAD OF CHRIST AND THE HEAD OF THE WOMAN IS THE MAN. THIS IS WHAT I TERM AS THE DIVINE ORDER AND HUMAN ORDER ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD.

JUST AS THE MAN AND WOMAN HAVE DIFFERENT ROLES IN THE MARRIAGE UNION, SO ALSO THE CHURCH MUST RECOGNIZE AND TESTIFY OF THE DIVINE ROLES OF THE FATHER AND SON AND HOLY SPIRIT IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ETERNAL SALVATION.

LIKE THE CHURCH OF CORINTH, ALL CHURCHES MUST KNOW THAT CHRIST HEADS EVERY CHURCH AND THEREFORE HIS GOSPEL IS THE WORD OF GOD FOR OUR ETERNAL SALVATION AND LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO GOD. THIS RECOGNITION AND RESPECT IS THE SAME FOR THE POSITION OF THE MAN AS THE HUSBAND AND HEAD OF THE MARRIAGE UNION, AND THE WOMAN AS THE WIFE AND SECOND IN COMMAND AND NOT A SLAVE.

This message was important among the Corinthian Christians because of their background of idol worship and strong political, social and sports institutions with headships based on physical strength, oratorical abilities, brute force, human wisdom and connections, intelligence, smartness and domineering spirit. Hence Paul's exaltation of his apostolic preaching by the Holy Spirit and power of God that made the Corinthians have faith in Christ and believe in the power of God other human prowess **(1 Corinthians 2:4 & 5)**.

HUMAN ORDER CANNOT REPLACE DIVINE ORDER IN LIFE, MINISTRY AND THE CHURCH.

This is the New King James Bible Commentary: "But" introduces an exception to the praise Paul had given to the Corinthians in **verse 2**. Paul wanted to instruct the Corinthians on another point of confusion. Head primarily means "authority" when used in the context of human relationships.

But the Greek word for head can also mean "source" or "origin" in some cases. The head of a woman is man: The relationship between men and women does not involve inferiority, for, in the parallel clause, Christ is not inferior to God the Father.

Submission does not indicate inferiority but subordination. Just as Christ and God are equally divine, men and women are equal beings. Just as Jesus and God the Father have different roles in God's plan of salvation, so men and women are given different roles.

KNOW THAT THE BEAUTIFUL COMBINATION OF HEADSHIP AND AUTHORITY IS STATED BY PAUL TO SHOW THAT THE HEAD OF EVERY MAN IS CHRIST, AND THE HEAD OF THE WOMAN IS THE MAN. ABOVE ALL, THE HEAD OF CHRIST IS GOD. WHEN YOU SEE AND UNDERSTAND THIS TRUTH IN THE LIGHT OF THE CHURCH AND CREATION, YOUR LIFE, MINISTRY AND LOCAL CHURCH WOULD BE GLORIFIED AT A HIGHER LEVEL LIKE THE CHURCH OF CORINTH.

C// HEADSHIP AND SPIRITUAL COVERING OF THE MAN AND WOMAN

1 Corinthians 11:4 & 5 – Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved.

Paul emphasized on headship and spiritual covering of the man and woman in prayer and speaking prophecy by the Holy Spirit. In other words when a man or woman stands before God and the Church to pray or prophesy, he or she must be mindful of headship and spiritual covering over him or her.

According to the gospel of Paul, a man who covers his head when praying or prophesying dishonours his head who is Christ. Since Christ is the head and covering of man, praying or prophesying with head covering means having another head and covering over you as a man. On the contrary, the gospel of Paul is that a woman ought to cover her head when in prayer or prophesying to honour her head. If she ignores it, it is dishonour to the man and has the same measure of a woman whose hair is shaved. That is a woman whose glory is removed.

It is important to note that the head covering of the woman is not at every place and time but when in prayer and prophesying by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It means to say that God recognizes headship and authority in the Church and reveals His glory.

Apostle Paul used the human analogy of sex type and marriage to explain and enhance understanding of the Church spiritual authority. These are divinely ordained before one's birth beyond any natural or lottery or time and chance principle of human knowledge and wisdom. Know that your sex type (male or female) is by God for a purpose without any mistake. Therefore don't change your sex type for anything because God's purpose is for you to put your faith in Christ and be saved eternally. It is not to eat and drink and make careless decisions in the name of rights and freedoms by law.

Therefore the word of God is against the group advocates and practitioners called lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (L.G.B.T.I) which promotes change in sex type besides life of sexual immoralities. Either you are a group member by registration or practitioner. Be warned.

GOD DOES NOT MAKE MISTAKES AND THEREFORE YOUR SEX TYPE IS PURPOSED TO REVEAL GOD'S GLORY AND ESTABLISHED AGENDA FOR THE CHURCH.

Also God has ordained from the beginning of human existence that the head of the marriage union is the man and the woman being second in God's command is to play a supporting role (**Genesis 2:18 & 19, 20 – 25**). This is good and righteous because God does not make mistakes.

HUMAN ORDER CAN BE USED BY GOD TO TEACH US HIS DIVINE WAYS IN LIFE, MINISTRY AND THE CHURCH; THE ROLE OF ADAM AND EVE.

Further explanation revealed head coverings in prayer and prophesying before God. It is about being in God's presence and not in the presence of a human being. The life and ministry of the Christian is to revere God as holy and righteous in all His ways. Therefore men were to pray without covering their heads because the head of man is Christ, and

Christ cannot be covered in God's presence. Women were to pray with heads covered to express reverence and honour to God just like before their husbands. Symbolically, it expresses authority, submissiveness and reverence by the Church just as it pertains in the marriage union between a man and a woman.

APPRECIATE DIVINE ORDER TO EXPERIENCE HUMAN BLESSINGS IN THE CHURCH. HEADSHIPS, AUTHORITY AND PHYSICAL COVERING HAS THE SAME MEANING AND PURPOSE WITH OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH TO REFLECT SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY AND COVERING.

It is important to note that the culture of the Corinthians and the Jews allowed females to cover their heads more than the males in societal and community gatherings. Environmental conditions made males cover their heads but not dominant like women. It made the distinction between the authority of males and females very clear to them. It was also a sign of submissiveness that Apostle Paul desired for the Corinthian Church noted for arrogance and self – will at work (**Proverbs 8:13, Jeremiah 48:29, 1 Corinthians 4:6, 18 & 19, 5:2, 8:1b**). Though various cultures and nations have women wearing veils and head gears all the time or most of the time, it is a matter of cultural principles unlike the word of God which centres on prayer and prophesying times.

CULTURAL DYNAMICS CAN BE CHanneled INTO SPIRITUALITY, WORKS AND BLESSINGS WHEN THE WILL AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD ARE AT WORK TO TRANSFORM AND CHANGE HIS PEOPLE AS A CHURCH. IT MEANS TO MAKE THE RIGHT LAWS THAT PROMOTE DIGNITY AND STANDARD MORAL VALUES IN SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH.

Likewise, spiritual authority in the Church should be very clear to provide direction and obedience. Men must be men and women must be women in the simplicity of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christ's place and authority over His own Church must also be very clear without any satanic involvement. However, the residence and role of the Holy Spirit is in both male and female Christians to live right and perform righteous works. In the Church and therefore the presence of God, it is about Jesus Christ and God's glory and not the glory of the woman's hair or the manliness of a male as the head of the marriage union. This is not about worldly works and contributions but simplicity, authority, responsibilities, and submissiveness in Christ with the Holy Spirit.

HOLINESS IN SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY MUST BE CLEAR TO PROVIDE CLEARLY DEFINED DIVINE DIRECTION, SIMPLICITY, OBEDIENCE, RESPONSIBILITIES AND SUBMISSIVENESS.

Having his head covered – can refer to a hat or a veil

Dishonours his head covered – It is impossible to decide whether head here refers to man's physical head or to Christ, the man's authoritative head (verse 3). Either interpretation is possible. Paul may even have meant the word to have a double meaning.

Verses 5 & 6 – Every woman who prays or prophesies: Women were obviously allowed to pray and prophesy in the Christian assembly because it would have been meaningless for Paul to give an instruction for something they were not permitted to do.

New King James Bible Commentary: Dishonours her head – refers to either the woman's own physical head or to her husband as her head or possibly both.

Praying or prophesying – may refer to specifically to intercessory prayer similar to that of Old Testament Prophets (see Genesis 20:7, 1 Samuel 12:23, Jeremiah 27:18), or Anna (see Luke 2:36 – 38) or to the combination of tongues and prayers (see 1 Corinthians 14:13 – 16, Acts 2:4, 10:46).

PRAYER

We thank You O God for the revelation about the roles played with regard to eternal salvation for humanity.

Bearing semblance to the roles of a man and woman in a marriage union, help us with Your Holy Spirit to acknowledge the authority of the Father and submissiveness of Christ to make possible our eternal salvation.

We pray also that as a Church, Your Holy Spirit will help us to behave wisely and show respect and honour to Your Holy name in the Church.

Whether in prayer or preaching of Your word or fellowship or breaking of bread, may we be mindful of the roles played by the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit in our eternal salvation.

All these we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CHURCHES THAT RECOGNIZES THE ROLES OF GOD THE FATHER, SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT RECEIVE GRACE TO ESTABLISH ORDER, AUTHORITY, SUBMISSIVENESS, HONOUR AND REVERENCE AMONG THE BRETHREN. IT IS A FORM OF PROTECTION FROM THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS. WHO ARE NOTED FOR ARROGANCE, PRIDE, DISORDER AND CONFUSION. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

WHEN MEN ACCEPT CHRIST AS THE HEAD AND WOMEN SUBMIT TO THEIR HUSBANDS, IT REVEALS THE BEAUTY AND GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER AS THE HEAD OF CHRIST THE SAVIOUR AND THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO MAKE ETERNAL SALVATION REAL AND ACHIEVABLE TO THE CHURCH AND HUMANITY. IT IS A FORM OF PROTECTION FROM THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS WHO ARE NOTED FOR ARROGANCE, PRIDE, DISORDER AND CONFUSION. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE TRINITY WITH HUMAN MARRIAGE; DIFFERENCES AS GOD ORDAINED

INSPIRATION

The teaching of Apostle Paul continued with great interest and excitement to the Church. His analysis of spiritual truths was the basis of decision making, conclusions and recommendations for the promotion of righteousness, spiritual growth and maturity.

What Paul wanted urgently for the Church of Corinth was submissiveness as a result of obedience to God's word and divine order and human order in marriage. The bible says that **"Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, And attend to your herds (Proverbs 27:23)**. Hence the determination to ensure that the divine order and human order were enforced by the Church. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 11:6 – 12 For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. For man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.

A// A WOMAN'S UNCOVERED HAIR; EQUAL STATUS AS SHORN HAIR

1 Corinthians 11:6 – For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered.

Paul continued his teaching on submissiveness spirit of the woman to ensure obedience to God's word and divine order and human order in the Church. Hence the determination to ensure that the divine order and human order were enforced by the Church.

He stated sarcastically that if a woman's hair is not covered, then it is better for the woman to have her hair cut as a man. Why because the hair of the woman is her glory for covering and the head of a woman is the man. Since it is shameful for a woman to have a shaved hair and without glory, she must cover her head and not dishonour her head; the man **(1 Corinthians 11:3b)**. Besides, Paul revealed that a woman who prays or prophesies with uncovered hair dishonours the head, the man; sign of no respect and does not edify the Church **(1 Corinthians 11:4)**.

By this truth, Paul meant that a woman must always have her hair covering in place as symbolic of her glory and submissiveness to the man as a natural order. Does it mean also that a woman who prays or prophesies with uncovered head was not Holy Spirit inspired? For the Churches have had examples of such cases and they were blessed.

Does this come close to circumcision of the flesh where Paul said that being circumcised or not does not matter to God but obedience in Christ (**1 Corinthians 7:19**)? Can it be said that spiritual women who pray and prophesy without covering their heads are the cause of insubordination in the Churches? Are they really dishonouring their male counterparts? Is the Holy Spirit grieved? These are deep questions to answer.

Though this had cultural connotations in Israel and the Middle East region, Paul brought out its spiritual significance that tells order in the Church and one's personal relationship and obedience to Christ as Head of His Church and the Headship of God in all things.

New King James Bible Commentary: Dishonors her head refers to either a woman's own physical head or to her husband as her head or possibly both. Reference to verse 4 says that for a woman not to cover her head with a veil or with her own hair was shameful as having a shaved head, a sign of public disgrace.

PAUL'S MESSAGE CENTRED ON THE BIGGER PICTURE OF GOOD INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE MAN AND WOMAN WHERE THE LATTER SUBMITS TO THE FORMER IN RESPECT OF HEAD COVERING, AND ENSURE HUMAN ORDER AND DIVINE ORDER AS THE CASE IN THE CHURCH.

BY THIS TRUTH, PAUL REVEALED THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN HUMAN ORDER AND DIVINE ORDER ESPECIALLY IN THE CHURCH. THE WOMAN'S SUBMISSIVENESS TO THE MAN FACILITATED OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST WHO IS THE HEAD OF MAN.

B// A MAN'S HAIR; SYMBOLIC OF THE IMAGE AND GLORY OF GOD

1 Corinthians 11:7 – For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

Another physical act and sign taught by Paul was man's covering and relationship with God as a Believing Christian. Paul based his revelation message from the creation story where God created man in His own image and named him Adam. That is God placed His glory on man to bear semblance of His glorious nature. As a result, man is not permitted to cover his head and conceal or hide the glory of God especially when praying or prophesying (**1 Corinthians 11:4**). In other words, the glory of God is to be made public by man where people look up to Him. Every man has the responsibility to project the image and glory of God through good leadership, vision, mission and goals in the likes of the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Prophets and Priests.

Comparatively, Paul explained that the woman is the glory of man. It means to say that the woman must submit to the good leadership of man when he reflects the image and glory of God. For God made the woman the second in command as helpmate to the man in creation to reflect His image and glory. Therefore God expects the woman to cover her head and not shave her hair to always symbolize submissiveness to the man for the sake of love, coordination, unity of faith and purpose.

JUST AS MAN SHOULD NOT COVER THE HEAD BECAUSE IT SYMBOLIZES GOD'S IMAGE AND GLORY, LIKEWISE THE WOMAN IS THE GLORY OF MAN AND SHOULD NOT LEAVE THE HEAD UNCOVERED. THE BEAUTY OF PAUL'S MESSAGE IS THAT IT ENSURES SUBMISSIVENESS, ORDER AND HONOUR IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND IS A REMINDER OF ONE'S OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS AND CHURCH AS A WHOLE.

C// FURTHER DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN

(i) MAN IS NOT FROM WOMAN BUT WOMAN FROM MAN

1 Corinthians 11:8 – For man is not from woman, but woman from man.

Paul made reference to the creation of man and woman in the Garden of Eden where the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the earth; when God said that it was not good for man to be alone; when God said that let us make man in our own image and likeness **(Genesis 2:18 & 19)**. Hence his reason for man not to cover his head because he is the glory of God: That is man came directly from God. He spoke His word and formed man into being. He fashioned man in His own hands to reflect His likeness and glory.

Divine order cannot be changed because it reveals the wisdom and purposes and glory of God. From the beginning, man's creation was direct from God to reflect His image and glory. When man lost the glory of God, Christ came to restore it and thus became the glory of man and the Church. Therefore the saying of Paul that the head of man is Christ and Christ is God's is true and believable.

But for the woman, she came directly from man and not from God. For the Lord God put man into a deep sleep and took out one of his ribs and formed a woman. Hence the name of a woman because she came from man **(Genesis 2:21 – 25)**.

New King James Bible Commentary: Verses 7 – 9 Man is not from woman, but woman from man – The woman was taken from the side of the man **(Genesis 2:21). Woman for the man is Paul's way of stating the concept of the "helper" in **Genesis 2:20**. This does not mean that the woman is inferior to the man. It refers only to the purposes of God for man and woman in a creative order.**

PAUL'S MESSAGE WAS THAT WHAT MAN IS THE DIRECT CREATION OF GOD TO REFLECT HIS IMAGE AND GLORY. HENCE MAN'S AUTHORITY IS CHRIST AND CHRIST'S IS GOD'S AS ORDAINED FROM CREATION. BUT THE WOMAN CAME FROM MAN AND THEREFORE SHE IS THE GLORY OF MAN AS GOD HAS ORDAINED IT.

(ii) MAN WAS NOT CREATED FOR THE WOMAN BUT THE WOMAN FOR MAN

1 Corinthians 11:9 – Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.

Paul strengthened his defense message of man not to cover his head because he is the glory of God. But the woman should cover her head because she is man's glory and not dishonour him. In other words, the process of creation was the definite decision of God in all righteousness without deficiency or mistake. Its purposes revealed God's sovereignty and glory to live together and populate the earth. This was to be done in a righteous relationship through obedience to His word to command respect and reveal levels of glory to God from the man and the man from the woman.

Hence Adam could say of the woman formed from him as **"This is now bone of my bones. And flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man"** (Genesis 2:23).

This analogy is the basis for the institution of the marriage union between a man and a woman to live together away from their parents. A life of leadership by the man and a helpmate by the woman. A life of mutual decision and sexual consent to have children and for pleasure **(Genesis 2:24 & 25)**.

It is in this recognition, respect and honour of the process of creating a man and a woman, and marriage union with roles and responsibilities that Paul instructed the Corinthians Believers in righteousness to maintain law and order in their lives and the Church.

PAUL USED THE CREATION STORY AND MARRIAGE UNION OF ADAM AND EVE TO EPITOMIZE HIS EARLIER POINTS OF ROLE PLAYS, AUTHORITY, SUBMISSIVENESS AND GLORY OF THE MAN TO GOD AND THE WOMAN TO MAN.

(iii) A WOMAN'S SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY

1 Corinthians 11:10 – For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

Another strong reason and revelation by Paul to the Church of Corinth was the need of the woman to have a symbol of authority on her head because of the angels. Angels witnessed the creation of the earth and shouted for joy **(Job 38:3 – 7)**. Know that angels believe in authority and obey the commands of God **(Psalms 103:20)**. They minister to the Church as heirs of salvation **(Hebrews 1:14)**. They were involved in the affairs of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as carriers of the mantle of God for their generations and the whole of humanity **(Genesis 28:12, 32:1)**. They were involved in the journeys of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land **(Psalms 78:25)**. Likewise the Psalms has records of angelic encounters and ministrations and messages for edification **(Psalms 8:5, 78:49, 91:11, 104:4, 148:2)**.

Angels were involved in God's plan of eternal salvation through His Son Jesus Christ; prophecies, birth, protection, guidance, ministry, death and resurrection and ascension into heaven (**Matthew 4:11, 25:31, 26:53, Luke 2:15**). Truly Christ's second coming has many role plays by angels as written in the **Book of Revelations**.

It means to say that the Lord's angels who are with us as heirs of salvation need to see our submission and respect to authority as God has ordained. According to the gospel of Paul, the woman must have authority on her head because of the angels. It means to say also that the angels know that the woman came from the man and is the woman is the man's glory. In other words the authority of the man over woman must be revealed in humility and submissiveness through head covering by the woman when praying or prophesying.

I want to believe also that the angels of the Lord are empowered by sight of a woman's symbol of authority from the man because it connects to the man's authority of Christ as the Head and Christ's as God's. Since the angels of God minister to the Church as heirs of salvation (**Hebrews 1:14**), they are witnesses to submissions and authority among us just as the Corinthians Believers.

This makes our fellowship with the Father and Son perfect through the leading of the Holy Spirit and obedience to the word of God (**1 John 1:3**).

News King James Bible Commentary: Women were to wear a covering on their heads because of the angels. Evidently God's angels are present at the meeting of the Church and actually learn of God's work of grace through the lives and worship of God's people (Ephesians 3:10).

News King James Bible Commentary: Symbol of authority – This might be a symbol of the woman's authority to prophesy in the new age Church which was inaugurated with the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (verse 5). It also might refer to a symbol of the man's authority over the woman (verse 3).

THE ANGELS OF THE LORD RESPECTS A WOMAN WHOSE HEAD IS COVERED WITH A VEIL OR SCARF TO SIGNIFY SUBMISSION TO THE MAN AS SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY.

(iv) MAN AND WOMAN ARE NOT INDEPENDENT OF ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST;

1 Corinthians 11:11 – Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord.

Paul's defense of his message took another dimension when he stated that though there were differences in role plays and submissions on the part of the man and the woman, it is also true that God made the man and the woman to depend on each other for mutual benefits. In the wisdom of God, the man or the woman cannot be perfect through

independence of each other. In truth, independence here defeats the righteous intents and purposes of God right from creation, through procreation, and in the Church.

By this truth, Paul made the Corinthians Believers aware of the important and unique roles ordained by God for both the man and the woman. For they all fulfill His plans and purposes in Christ. Hence the need for interdependency in Christ and the Church because nobody is an island to himself or herself.

It means to say that Paul did not condemn women as a man or exalted himself or men over women but emphasized and recognized each role played and symbols of authority over the man and the woman in the Church. For divine order must not change because it reveals God's glory as it was in creation.

The bible says that as Believing Christians, we are sons and heirs of Christ. We have put our faith in Jesus Christ. Paul described it as having been baptized into Christ. Our new identity and nature is Christlike. There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female but all are one in Christ Jesus. In Christ, we are Abraham's seed and have the promise as heirs (**Galatians 3:28**). In this truth and revelation to the sister Church of Galatia, Paul's message established the fact God does not distinguish between a male and female as long as they are in Christ, have the Holy Spirit and obey His teachings which have the promise of eternal life, life of righteousness and service to God.

This is the place of the Church now but submission and symbols of authority must be respected because there is divine order just as Jesus respected and obeyed the Father as a Son to accomplish eternal salvation. Hence Paul's emphasis here that there is the need for interdependence to be profitable in our Christian faith and in the Church just like the Corinthians Believers.

New King James Bible Commentary: neither ... independent: Men and women need each other, and as creatures of God, both depend on Him. Neither man nor woman can have any claim to special status other than what God has purposed for them as their Creator.

BEING A MALE OR FEMALE IS NOT THE CONCERN BECAUSE BOTH ARE THE CREATION OF GOD AND REFLECTS SYMBOLS OF AUTHORITY. RATHER, YOUR ROLE PLAY IN OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSIVENESS TO ORDAINED AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH AS A BELIEVING CHRISTIAN MAKES THE WORKS OF GOD BEAUTIFUL AND GLORIOUS ACCORDING TO HIS RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS AND WORD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

D// MAN AND WOMAN ARE OF THE FLESH; GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

1 Corinthians 11:12 – For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.

Having shown the major and minor differences between a man and a woman in creation and the need for submissiveness and levels of authority, Paul emphasized on the truth that all things are from God. Thus he acknowledged God as Jehovah Elohim, The Creator. It means that Paul reinforced God's purposes in creation and eternal salvation through His Son Jesus Christ and institution of the Church to reveal and reflect His glory.

This human and divine orders cannot change because God ordained them to reveal His glory in heaven and on earth. The woman came from man because God said that it was not good for Adam to be alone. Therefore, God put Adam into a deep sleep and took one of his ribs to form a woman. Hence the woman is the glory of man.

Likewise the man also comes through woman and this is used in the present tense to signify continuity in procreation. Adam and Eve gave birth to their children outside the Garden of Eden because of the sin of disobedience **(Genesis 5:1 – 5, 6 – 8, 9 – 11, 12 – 14, 15 – 17, 18 – 20, 21 – 24, 25 – 27, 28 – 31, & 32)**. For every man is born of a woman according to God's law of procreation and the natural law of childbirth. Job emphasized on this truth though he attributed it to man's suffering on earth because of sin, evil and wickedness **(Job 14:1)**. This continued throughout the generations of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to form the nation of Israel. The other sons and daughters broke away to form their own nations of people.

But in Paul's preaching to the Athenians about the unknown God statue, he made reference to God as the Creator of humanity. He made Adam after His likeness, image and glory. Also woman was taken out of man and procreation of people through human birth of women have populated the whole earth throughout the generations.

We read

Acts 17:26 – 28 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they seek the Lord in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said," For we are also His offspring."

THE SUPERIORITY OF GOD'S WORD SURVIVES GENERATIONAL ORDER OF HUMAN DOCTRINES AND INSTRUCTIONS.

Since man is symbolic of God's creation in the generic sense, it means that both man and woman are to look to God and obey His word at all times in and outside the Church **(Genesis 1:27)**. For none is independent of God because all things are of God. The bible says that the conclusion of the matter of seeking all sorts of wisdom whether spiritual or human is to worship God and He would bring every work of ours unto judgment whether secret or open, good or evil **(Ecclesiastes 12:13 & 14)**. As Christians, the Holy Spirit is our Helper.

GOD CREATED MAN AND WOMAN TO LOOK UP TO HIM AND PROSPER IN LIFE. WHEN THE WOMAN SHOWS SUBMISSION TO MAN AND TO GOD THROUGH COVERING OF HER HEAD IN THE CHURCH, AND MAN SUBMITS TO GOD IN CHRIST IN THE GENERIC SENSE, SCRIPTURE IS FULFILLED AND THE CHURCH BECOMES A SPIRITUAL AND BEAUTIFUL PLACE.

By the message and revelation of Paul to the Corinthians, he counseled them to see and accept one another because their sense of belonging is not just in God through creation but also through faith in Christ as one people and one nation irrespective of class, sex type, lineage, family, tribe, educational background, Church denomination and achievements in life.

God designed that the direct and indirect rule of leadership reveals the union between divinity and humanity to promote righteousness in Christ and through the Holy Spirit. On the side of divinity, the trinity where God as the Head and Creator does all things in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit to achieve the same purpose. On the side of humanity, the man is the head and the woman second in command to support the man for mutual benefits. They are dependent on each other in the Lord to reflect the partnership between divinity and humanity.

New King James Bible Commentary: neither ... independent: Men and women need each other, and as creatures of God, both depend on Him. Neither man nor woman can have any claim to special status other than what God has purposed for them as their Creator.

PRAYER

Thank You O God for teaching us through the writing of Apostle Paul about submissiveness and obedience in and outside the Church.

Help us to enforce this submissiveness in understanding where the head of the woman is the man and the head of the man is Christ.

And we give You all the glory O God.

It is our prayer that head covering of the woman symbolic of the man's glory and authority over her be taken seriously to ensure submissiveness and obedience.

Lord give us better understanding through the revelation of the Holy Spirit because it is the word of God.

May Your Holy Spirit remind us also that the glory of the man is God who created him for obedience and worship.

May Your Holy Spirit remind us of this teaching by Paul that submissiveness is not about inferiority.

For just as woman was taken from man through his rib in Adam, so also man also came from woman by divine and human order. This inseparable process crowns You O God as all in all even in procreation. Yes all things come from You O God and we give You all the glory in Jesus' name. Amen.

WHEN DIVINE ORDER AND HUMAN ORDER LEADS TO SUBMISSIVENESS, IT OPENS THE DOOR OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. FOR THIS TRUTH, EVERY BELIEVING CHRISTIAN, CHRISTIAN LEADER AND MINISTER MUST BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO UNDERSTAND SPIRITUAL TRUTHS AND REVELATION. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

PAUL JUSTIFIES HIS GOSPEL OF HEAD COVERING BY WOMEN; CONSCIENCE AND NATURE AND THE WORD OF GOD

INSPIRATION

Paul's desire to see proper conduct of Church meetings and Church services among the Corinthians Believers was at work with instructions on head coverings. The bible says that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and He delights in His way (**Psalms 37:23**).

The Corinthians Believers were to help him make good judgment of the long hair of a woman as her covering unlike that of the man. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 11:13 – 16 Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering. But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

A// MAKE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS TOO AS A CHURCH; UNCOVERED HEAD OF A WOMAN IN PRAYER?

1 Corinthians 11:13 – Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?

Apostle Paul gave the Church of Corinth the opportunity to make righteous judgments of situations that needed interventions and solutions. Specifically he threw back the issue of women not wearing a veil or scarf over their heads when in prayer to the Corinthians Believers and make righteous judgments as he would have done.

He perceived them to be enlightened now through his knowledge talk of the scriptures. As Christians who could reason among themselves to discern truth from error, they were to be honest and transparent to answer the question of the head coverings of women and men by nature and the scriptures.

It is important to be reminded of Paul's earlier teaching of the Corinthians Believers to be mindful of rushing to state courts with the least challenges and problems of the Church. He warned them that state courts of unbelievers cannot make righteous decisions for the spiritual growth and maturity of the Church (**1 Corinthians 6:4, 6 & 7**). Hence his rebuke of the Church of Corinth for failure to identify and appoint wise people among them to be Judges of Church problems (**1 Corinthians 6:5**).

Having created the awareness and praising the Corinthians Believers (**1 Corinthians 11:2**), Paul was confident of the righteous judgment to be made. He believed that the Church, with wise people, would agree with his position on a woman's uncovered head in the Church especially when praying or prophesying. Since the woman came from man,

she is the glory of man and therefore she must have a symbol of authority through wearing of head gear or head scarf when praying or prophesying for the sake of the angels.

PAUL'S QUESTION TO THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS REVEALED GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS TEACHINGS, SCRIPTURE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

B// PAUL APPRECIATES SOCIETAL AND CULTURAL DYNAMICS AGAINST A MAN'S LONG HAIR

1 Corinthians 11:14 – Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?

In this way, Apostle Paul explains that the intercourse between divinity and humanity is purpose driven to attain true worship, obedience and submission. Nature has a beautiful way of showing it.

Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? That is it reduces a man's image and glory because he has made himself a woman. For man was made in the image and glory of God and not of a woman as Paul taught the Corinthians **(1 Corinthians 11:7 & 8a)**.

This question was meant to quicken their reasoning faculties that long hair does not belong to a man but a woman. This means that the natural order of life in which God has made us is good and should be respected and appreciated. Do not become a male as a female and do not become a female as a male like the manner in which modernity, medicine and technology has violated the natural order of life as noted of L.G.B.T.I.

Indeed the only hair that belongs to both man and woman is the silver hair as the crown of glory and it is found in the way of righteousness **(Proverbs 16:31)**.

PAUL'S MESSAGE HERE WAS THAT EVEN NATURE AND CULTURES OF NATIONS CONFIRM HIS POSITION THAT THE MAN'S HAIR THAT IS LONG LIKE A WOMAN IS DISHONOURABLE AND SHAMEFUL BECAUSE IT REDUCES HIS IMAGE AND GLORY OF GOD.

C// REINFORCEMENT OF THE WOMAN'S HAIR AS A COVERING

1 Corinthians 11:15 – But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

In this way, Apostle Paul explains that the intercourse between divinity and humanity is purpose driven to attain true worship, obedience and submission. Nature has a beautiful way of showing it.

Paul reiterates his message of the woman to have long hair as her glory and covering. Nature teaches means that it shows openly that the growth of a woman's hair becomes long and it is beautiful to behold unlike a man's short hair. It brings out the beauty in her and enhances her physical looks that befits the status of a woman who fears God and believes in righteousness.

The comparison was meant to quicken their reasoning faculties that long hair does not belong to a man but a woman. This means that the natural order of life in which God has made us is good and should be respected and appreciated. The bible says that Solomon described the praise of the Bridegroom to the Bride as having hair as the flock of goats; that is hair like the movement of goats **(Song of Solomon 4:1)**.

Do not become a male as a female and do not become a female as a male like the manner in which modernity, medicine and technology has violated the natural order of life as proponents and practitioners of L.G.B.T.I.

Indeed the only hair that belongs to both man and woman is the silver hair as the crown of glory and it is found in the way of righteousness **(Proverbs 16:31)**.

PAUL'S MESSAGE HERE WAS THAT EVEN NATURE AND CULTURES OF NATIONS CONFIRM HIS POSITION THAT THE WOMAN'S HAIR THAT IS HONOURABLE AND HER COVERING BECAUSE IT ENHANCES HER IMAGE, BEAUTY AND DIGNITY.

D// CHURCH AND SOCIETAL LAWS; UNCOVERED HEAD OF A WOMAN

1 Corinthians 11:16 – But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

Apostle Paul foresaw questions and challenges from the Corinthian Christians and stated that there was no custom of accepting uncovered heads of women and long hair for men as a Church policy. Neither was there a judicial decision along that line to be upheld by Ministers and Church leaders.

By this truth, Paul emphasized the peaceful nature of the gospel of Jesus Christ to instill high moral values in the Churches and society. That is he advocated for decency in dressing that portray meekness and submissiveness. Clearly the dresses of some of our women in the Churches differs from the decent dressings of the early Church such as Paul instructed in the Church of Corinth. But the godly women were known to be decent in dressing and managing their hair to reveal holiness and submission to authority **(1 Peter 3:5)**.

It means to say that this issue of head covering of women and long hair, and non – covering of men's head and wearing short hair instead of long hair can raise tensions in the Churches if modern and societal changes occur. Laws that promote strong human rights and freedoms in some western countries makes implementation in the Churches

difficult. Now men can go to hair salons and perm and style their hair like women. Likewise women cut their long hair to have short hair like men in the name of fashion.

As in the days of Paul with the Church of Corinth, so it is in our modern days backed by law and strong human rights and freedoms. Going by Paul's message, Churches do not make such immoral laws that are antagonistic to the word of God; the gospel of Jesus Christ and the institution of the Church. It is always the strong influence of societal laws that finds its way into the Church because it is always about people. Hence the need to watch and pray always and avert falling into compromises and temptations.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS PEACEFUL IN NATURE AND THEREFORE DOES NOT AND CANNOT PROMOTE A CONTENTIOUS SPIRIT AGAINST TRUTH AND REVELATION. OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD AVERT CONTENTIONS IN THE CHURCHES AND HAVE THE BACKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FAVOUR UNLIKE STRONG INFLUENCE OF SOCIETAL LAWS AGAINST THE CHURCH.

A critical look at Paul's statement meant that the Church had more important doctrines like the doctrine of the trinity and baptism of the Holy Spirit to be promoted and established in the Churches: for spiritual growth and maturity at service in the Lord's Vineyard.

THE CHURCH CANNOT WASTE ITS TIME AND RESOURCES TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE CONTENTIONS FROM SOCIETAL LAWS WHEN RESULTS ORIENTED AREAS LIKE THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY AND BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE TO BE ENCOURAGED AND BLESSED THE CHURCH.

The revelation here is that head covering by women and not men is righteous to be followed in the Church. It promotes divine order and submission to Jesus Christ. However, if this is not practiced by women who have short hair naturally but reverence and submission are real and evident by the Holy Spirit in the Churches, then it serves the same divine purpose. For the practice of God's love, mercy and forgiveness in Christ, promotion of peace, righteous works and unity are necessary for edification, spiritual growth and maturity. Amen.

TRUE REVERENCE AND SUBMISSION IN THE CHURCH IS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND NOT BY ANY HUMAN DOCTRINE.

We read

The bible tells us that women should be subject to their husbands. Also the adorning of a woman should be modest to reveal the hidden person of the heart. The braiding of the hair and wearing of jewels are to be in modesty. Hence it should be the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is very precious in God's sight **(1 Peter 3:1 – 6)**. It means to say that a woman's dressing and braiding of the hair or permed hair must connote respect and reverence to God. Therefore do not be quick to judge but be led by the Holy Spirit.

The bible reveals that any woman who professes Christ as godliness must adorn themselves in respectable apparel, modesty and self – control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire **(1 Timothy 2:9 & 10)**.

A WOMAN WHOSE FAITH IS IN CHRIST IS TO DRESS MODESTLY AND ADORN THE HAIR MODESTLY TO REFLECT CHRISTLIKENESS AND HOLINESS. SUBMISSION OF WIVES TO HUSBANDS AT HOME SHOULD ALSO REFLECT IN THE CHURCH WHERE SUBMISSION TO GOD MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERS ARE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND RIGHTEOUS IN GOD’S SIGHT.

PRAYER

We pray in the name of Jesus that God will help the Church to submit and obey His word always for spiritual growth and maturity with women wearing headscarf to cover their heads in prayer and prophesying.

We pray for peace to reign in our hearts and Churches so that the spirit of contention will not have any place among us.

We pray that Ministers and Church leaders will put a team of wise and discerning people in the Churches to manage and judge such critical issues and not go to state courts for unbelievers and unbelieving laws to make decisions detrimental to our Christian faith and unity.

Let love lead the way for the purpose of education and edification.

Let Your Holy Spirit be our Helper in Jesus’ name. Amen.

DIVINITY AND NATURE TEACH US TO USE OUR CONSCIENCE AND THE WORD OF GOD TO JUDGE, ACCEPT, DEFEND AND PRACTICE TRUTH AND REVELATION. NANA KWAKU DUODU

EVERY CHURCH IS OBLIGED TO PERSUE PEACE AS A POLICY TO ENSURE UNITY OF FAITH AND PURPOSE. HENCE THERE IS NO ROOM FOR CONTENTIONS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT REWARD US ETERNALLY. NANA KWAKU DUODU

EVERY CHURCH MUST BE PREPARED TO RESIST STRONG SOCIETAL INFLUENCES THAT FIND ITS WAY INTO THE CHURCH WITH REGARD TO DRESS CODES AND HAIR STYLES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. FOR THE SCRIPTURES AND HOLY SPIRIT GUIDANCE ARE A NECESSITY BEYOND OUR PURE CONSCIENCE IN CHRIST. NANA KWAKU DUODU

PAUL'S REBUKE; IDENTIFICATION OF DIVISIONS AND FACTIONS IN THE CHURCH

INSPIRATION

This is a paradigm shift from Paul's immediate praise of the Corinthians because they had shown a negative trait of divisions and factions in the Church. Yet God used their negative trait to bring out genuine Believing Christians to encourage commitment, faithfulness and edification.

This was not new to Paul at all because of the observed backsliding of the Corinthians occasionally **(1 Corinthians 1:10, 3:3)**. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 11:17 – 19 Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. 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. For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.

A// THE CHURCH OF CORINTH GATHERINGS; WRONG MOTIVES AND NO EDIFICATION

1 Corinthians 11:17 – Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse.

Paul gave a different set of instructions to the Corinthians Church about the conduct and participation in the Lord's Supper but without praise. The reason was that their gatherings and meetings were no longer shaped with good motives and edification. Self – righteousness had taken hold of their hearts and Paul questioned their wrong motives especially at the Lord's Supper. As he puts it ... **"since you come together not for the better but for the worse."**

This is the New King James Bible Commentary: I do not praise you – In contrast to Paul's praise in **verse 2, that the Corinthians had followed many of his teachings. Here he expressed concern for their sinful practices at worship.**

This is the New King James Bible Commentary: Come together – Is a technical term for the meeting of the Church and is used three times in the passage (Verses 18 & 20**).**

Indeed Paul loved the Church of Corinth and therefore made righteous interventions to ensure that they were holy to the Lord and obeyed His word at all times. Yet they irritated him many times with their carnality. But Paul was determined to ensure that the Church he had planted would not be corrupted with human divisions and factions and idol worship and fellowship with demons.

Paul began to address the Corinthians in a very straight forward manner concerning given instructions on maintaining divinity and humanity relationships and order in the Church. For earlier, he had written to them about headship with God the Father being the Head of Christ, and Christ as the Head of Man, and Man the head of the woman. Truly, the woman came out of the man, and man was made by God. As a result, the woman's glory is the man and that of the man is God in Christ as Believing Christians, Christian leaders and the Church **(1 Corinthians 11:2 – 16)**.

THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN DIVINITY AND HUMANITY REVEALS LEVELS OF HEADSHIP, ORDER AND PORTRAYAL OF SUBMISSIVENESS, HUMILITY AND OBEDIENCE.

It is not clear whether there were other reasons for Paul's discontentment with the Church of Corinth besides the conduct and participation of the Lord's Supper as revealed later. But Paul's message was to show his discontentment about the motive for their gathering as a Church at this stage. It made their Christian faith result in backsliding rather than edification; cursed instead of being blessed. Clearly to Paul, something was wrong with the Church of Corinth. As a Minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul could not praise them for works of evil but righteousness. This was also a message of warning to them that the mind of the world with sin, evil and wickedness was in contrast with the mind of Christ for righteousness and performance of righteous works.

WHENEVER CHURCH MEMBERS GATHER WITH THE WRONG MOTIVES FOR PARTAKING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER OR ANY OTHER CHURCH MEETING, IT IS A SIGN OF BACKSLIDING.

B// PAUL'S BELIEF AND DISCONTENTMENT; REPORT OF DIVISIONS

1 Corinthians 11:18 – 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.

Going further, Paul stated categorically that report had reached him about divisions in the Church again anytime they came together to pray and worship. It means to say that the signs were clear and the writing on the wall signaled divisions among them. It means to say also that they did not believe and confess their Christian faith in unity but divisions. He did not hide it from them at all but rebuked to correct as whom the Lord loves and as a father corrects his children **(Proverbs 3:12)**. Clearly, this was not what Paul expected to hear and see about the Church of Corinth. He expected unity of faith and purpose in their Church and not backsliding state of divisions among them.

When Paul wrote that ... **"and in part I believe it"**, there was a strong basis and reference point to it. It was a reminder of one of his early ministry challenges with the Church which he rebuked strongly to foster love and unity among the brethren **(1 Corinthians 1:10 – 17)**.

Truly, the bible says that there is nothing new under the sun. For what has taken place already is what we shall experience, and would happen in the future, says the Preacher Solomon, son of David (**Ecclesiastes 1:9 & 10**). Therefore, Paul had every cause to believe the bad report of divisions in the Church of Corinth. Hence his righteous concern and rebuke to correct them.

WHEN MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERS MAKE RIGHTEOUS INVESTMENTS IN THE CHURCH, AS WELL AS RIGHTEOUS INTERVENTIONS, THEY EXPECT NOTHING BUT IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY.

The backsliding Church of Corinth fulfilled the scripture of a dog that goes back to eat its vomit (**Proverbs 11:26**). The sin of divisions and contentions that Paul helped them to overcome was revisited by the Church because of eating the Lord's Supper wrongly.

REVISITED SINS LIKE DIVISIONS AND FACTIONS ARE SIGNS OF BACKSLIDING AND SHOULD BE AVERTED.

It meant that the Church of Corinth no longer had one mind and one voice in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Paul intended for them from the very beginning. For some spoke and shared different messages based on their carnal understanding in partaking of the Lord's Supper. Paul believed it partly though he was not present with them because it had happened before. And the scripture is true that there is nothing new under the sun.

BACKSLIDING CANNOT BE HIDDEN BECAUSE IT IS EXPOSED BY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND WORKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The bible says that Jesus prayed for the disciples that they shall all be one just as Him and the Father (**John 17:11**).

PRAYER FOR UNITY AMONG THE BRETHREN IS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE AGAINST THE DEVIL'S WEAPON OF DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH.

C// EVIL REVEALS RIGHTEOUSNESS; FACTIONS REVEAL TRUE BELIEVERS

1 Corinthians 11:19 – For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.

There were also factions as identifiable groups with doctrinal differences about the Christian faith and in this context the Lord's Supper. It means that some of the members believed in the proper conduct of the Lord's Supper and therefore their coming together for participation was right with good motives. It means also that those with corrupt minds and doctrines did not believe in the proper conduct of the Lord's Supper and gathered for wrong motives to satisfy their own ego and desires.

Observed factions in the days of water baptism by Paul or Apollos **(1 Corinthians 1:12 – 17)** was revisited in another way of conduct in the Lord's Supper. Motives varied and this meant that varied thoughts of good and evil influenced the Church for good or bad respectively. To Paul, there was no unity of the brethren, faith and purpose in the Church.

IN THE BACKSLIDING STATE OF A CHURCH, IDENTIFIABLE GROUPS OF FACTIONS ARE INEVITABLE. FOR VARIED TEACHINGS AND BELIEFS EXIST TO SUIT EACH GROUP.

Paul made an interesting revelation about false and genuine Believers in the Church of Corinth. The corrupt Believers with the mind of the world, and not the mind of Christ, was made known so that the genuine ones would be seen clearly among them. The factions revealed varied interests and motives and reasons for Church gatherings. This was God's way of separating His own from the others just as Jesus spoke about the separation of the sheep from the goats, good from evil **(Matthew 13:24 – 30, 36 – 43, 25:32)**.

According to Austin's Theory of separation of Law and Morals ... And this "good" is to be seen as "bottomed in the common nature of man." Without this conception of good and evil the notion of law would be "unknown." Legal Positivists emphasize on law that is synonymous with positive norms.

To Paul, the true gospel of Jesus Christ exposes the backsliding nature of some Believing Christians in the Church. And those who are approved because of obedience are the true children of God with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and are led by the Holy Spirit.

GOD EXPOSES SINNERS AND BACKSLIDING STATE TO REVEAL AND BRING TO LIMELIGHT TRUE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS AND MINISTERS.

This reveals that God uses factions observed in the Church because of the Lord's Table to differentiate true Christians from false Christians. Not only the Lord's Table but every word of God, the gospel of Jesus Christ, in which the devil attempts to turn upside down. Anytime members of a Church gather for the wrong reasons, it is a sign of developed factions which must be considered a state of emergency in the Church. Prayers, teachings, bible studies, and counsels and rebukes are necessary to enforce the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ in remembrance of Him as Believing Christians and His Church.

SEEK TO HAVE GOD'S APPROVAL IN THE APPLICATION OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ALL THE TIME IN LIFE, MINISTRY AND THE CHURCH. LEARN TO OBEY THROUGH REVELATION AND NOT JUST BY THE LETTER.

The bible says that many people followed Jesus and He discerned that some of them were for the wrong reasons and motives. He began to preach about eating His body and drinking His blood (baptism of Jesus Christ) to abide in Him, and many of them stopped following Him except the genuine disciples. This was a hard saying to many of the so

called disciples because they did not have the mind of the other disciples to have the revelation that Jesus had the words of eternal life **(John 6:53 – 66)**.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST OFFENDS AND SEPARATES THE TRUE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS FROM THE FALSE ONES.

I tell you the truth that it is always better to fulfill all righteousness like Jesus. Insist on it as a Believing Christian, Christian leader and Minister **(Matthew 3:13 – 15)**.

DESIRE AND RECEIVE GRACE TO FULFILL ALL RIGTEOUSNESS BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN YOU.

New King James Bible Commentary: those who are approved – one of the positive results of division or factions in the Church is that it becomes obvious who the genuine Christians are in the congregation.

PRAYER

It is our prayer O Lord that we have a deeper understanding of being Believing Christians, Church leaders, Christian leaders, and Ministers to have the right motives in all Church gatherings and partaking of the Lord's Supper.

We pray for strong Church leadership to enforce the true teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ such as conduct and partaking of the Lord's Supper.

May You O God, through Your word and Holy Spirit, expose all factions and divisions in the Churches so that true and obedient Believing Christians would be brought to the limelight of blessing and leadership.

Let understanding and revelation be our portion to ensure obedience to Your word in Jesus' name. Amen.

WHEN YOUR MOTIVES IN THE CHURCH GATHERINGS ARE RIGHTEOUS TO GOD IN CHRIST, YOU ENJOY THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO OBEY ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS IN CHRIST. NANA KWAKU DUODU

APPROACH THE LORD'S SUPPER IN REVELATION AND REVERENCE AND NOT FOR FUN OR RITUALISTIC OR RULE OR DISRESPECT. NANA KWAKU DUODU

DIVISIONS AND FACTIONS IN THE CHURCH ALWAYS ELEVATE GENUINE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS WHOSE FAITH, KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, WISDOM AND OBEDIENCE OUTSHINES THE BACKSLIDING CHRISTIANS. NANA KWAKU DUODU

CONDUCT AT THE LORD'S SUPPER (2)

REPORTED WRONG MOTIVES; ABUSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INSPIRATION

In Paul's desire to make the Lord's Table have its dignity and glory, he identified the errors committed by the Corinthians Believers such as eating and drinking heavily at home and making the Lord's Table an activity of the flesh and not spiritual.

Earlier Paul had emphasized against indulgence in works of the flesh and the need to avert them because God will destroy them all. He termed them as: Foods for the stomach and stomach for foods, but God will destroy them both it and them **(1 Corinthians 6:13a)**. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 11:20 – 22 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 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.

A// PAUL EXPOSED THE WRONG MOTIVES OF THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS

1 Corinthians 11:20 – Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.

Paul explains further the observed bad conduct of the Corinthians with regards to the Lord's Supper. Again he rebuked them for their wrong motives in gathering at the Lord's Table. It was not to eat at the Lord's Table in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ and revelation of abiding in Christ and proclaiming His death on the cross till He returns. It was not in reverence and respect to Him as our Saviour and Lord.

By this truth, Paul rebuked them for their non – preparations in a prayerful and meditative mood before coming to Partake of the Lord's Supper. The revelation and desire was no longer there for some of them. Hence the divisions and factions in the Church because the motive was wrong. Divisions showed that unity of faith and purpose was fragmented. One faith and one mind and one confession in Christ was no longer evident. Besides the divisions created factions among them with various doctrines as is common with corrupt Churches.

It is important to note that divisions and factions observed was also confirmed Paul's revelation of genuine Believers in the Church. It meant that not all of them came together with the wrong motive because other Believers understood and obeyed the teaching of Christ to partake of the Lord's Supper with good motives; prayerfully and meditatively to strengthen their bond of fellowship.

What does the bible say? The thoughts of the righteous are right, But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful **(Proverbs 12:5)**. Again the bible says that all the ways of a man is pure in his own eyes but the Lord weighs the hearts and spirits **(Proverbs 16:2, 21:2)**. Indeed your thoughts are a reflection of your beliefs in your hearts. As Paul revealed, the mindset of some of the Corinthians Believers was wrong to prepare and approach the Lord's Table.

New King James Bible Commentary: The Lord's Supper was the central piece of the early Christian worship. Gathered around on table, fellow believers met with the Lord and with each other in unity. Christ expressed this type of humility and unity when He instituted the Supper (Matthew 26:29, Mark 14:25, Luke 22:18).

A CHURCH WHERE SOME OF THE MEMBERS DO NOT HAVE RIGHTEOUS MINDSET TOWARDS PARTICIPATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE, THEY MISS THE LORD'S BLESSING. FOR THE LORD JUDGES OUR THOUGHTS AND MOTIVES BEFORE EVERY ACTION JUST LIKE THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS.

B// PROCEDURAL ERROR EXPOSED BY PAUL

1 Corinthians 11:21 – For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

Paul stated their procedural error in eating the Lord's Supper as in the manner without revelation but carnality. He realized that some members of the Church of Corinth ate before coming to the Lord's Table with the mindset of strengthening themselves and therefore giving no regard to fellowshiping with the Lord for spiritual renewal and spiritual strength.

This was because the Corinthians Believers were not united to come together and dine with the Lord because of the divisions and factions. They violated the spirit and purpose of the meal according to the New King James Bible Commentary. This was so obvious and serious that some of the members were either hungry for food or drunk with wine. Clearly, the purpose of their gathering for the Lord's Table was abused disregarding the spiritual blessing to their Christian faith.

WHEN A CHURCH BEGINS TO EXPERIENCE DIVISIONS AND FACTIONS, IT AFFECTS THE LOVE, UNITY OF FAITH AND PURPOSE SURROUNDING SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES LIKE PARTAKING IN THE HOLY COMMUNION. IS THE SIN OF THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCHES TODAY? JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES.

Truly, they missed the joy of the Lord's Table because they were divided and recorded factions; unity of faith and purpose was missing. This was clearly in contrast to the revelation of David: I was glad when they said to me; "Let us go into the house of the Lord". **(Psalms 122:1)**

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO RESPOND GLADLY IN GOING TO THE CHURCH AND FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS. HALLELUJAH TO JESUS CHRIST AND TO GOD. BE JOYFUL IN THE LORD.

New King James Bible Commentary: The Corinthians Believers were taking their own supper ahead of others violating the spirit and purpose of the meal. In acting this way, they showed contempt for the Church of God and shamed those who had nothing.

The Corinthians situation and timely intervention by Paul are a true reflection of the modern day Church where modernism and intelligence attempts to replace the institution and participation of the Holy Communion; the Lord's Supper. The devil's weapon against the Church is to make some Believers backslide in faith through indulgence in worldly and sinful works. Some jobs make you so busy that the whole month and year is without prayer and reading and studying God's word, and going out from your comfort zone to evangelize the world.

Other Christians are in backsliding state because of sinful practices like sexual immoralities, lies and deceit, and love for money which has endangered their faith. Therefore, they lose confidence and boldness to approach the Lord's Table. This is the food they eat before going to the Lord's Table or avoid it.

PAUL'S REBUKE OF THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS OF EATING AT HOME BEFORE COMING TO THE LORD'S TABLE IS A TRUE REFLECTION OF THE MODERN DAY CHURCH. WE EAT ALL KINDS OF FOOD THAT PUTS US IN A BACKSLIDING STATE TO LOSE CONFIDENCE AND BOLD TO APPROACH THE LORD'S TABLE OR PARTICIPATE IN IT IN THE FLESH OTHER THAN SPIRITUAL. REPENT!

C// DESPISING THE LORD'S CHURCH REBUKED BY PAUL

1 Corinthians 11:22 – 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.

Paul was surprised at the turn of events and the contempt the Corinthian Believers showed to the Lord's Table. He rebuked them for despising the Church of God and making the poor Believers look unimportant in God's sight. He did not expect them to disregard the spirit and purpose where the unity of the Church was clearly defined as Christians in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Adding salt to injury, they had houses where they could eat and drink and relax all the time, and yet they chose to satisfy their hunger and thirst at the expense of the Lord's Table. That is there was no difference between the Day of the Lord's Supper and other days. They ate food and drunk before going for the Lord's Supper. They satisfied

themselves in their stomachs and therefore did not care about the sanctity of the Lord's Table and unity of the Church.

Again Paul rebuked them for despising the Lord's Table because of their riches and abundance. Truly the rich among them ate sumptuously and could not fast for even few hours that they gathered as a Church to partake in the Lord's Table. That is they could not overlook their breakfast and allot the time to be spiritually conscious and prepared to participate in the Lord's Table. They ate because of abundance of food and riches. Therefore, Paul compared them to the poor in the Church who had nothing and therefore came prepared spiritually to dine with the Lord Jesus Christ. In a way, their actions did not edify the Church because they discouraged the poor among them.

Hence Paul perceived them as despising the Churches of God by their riches and abundance. For it made it look like those who partook of the Lord's Supper in revelation and truth have no food to eat in their homes. There was no spirituality attached to the Lord's Table any longer but carnality. It lost its true meaning to them because it became one of the ordinary and normal tables to eat and drink like eating at home or by the road side.

By this message, Paul's command was for the backsliding Christians to stop eating at home and fast and pray and be spiritually prepared to partake of the Lord's Table. Hence Paul's righteous rebuke and intervention to set the records straight because edification of the Church through obedience is preferred to selfish interests through disobedience.

THE CONCEPT OF PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS, REBUKE AND CORRECTION TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH ABOUT CONDUCT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER HAS THE PURPOSE OF EDIFICATION THROUGH OBEDIENCE, UNITY AND SANCTITY OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT.

WHENEVER THE LORD'S TABLE IS ABUSED BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH, MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERS ARE TO REBUKE THEM IN LOVE. IF THE CAUSE IS AS A RESULT OF DIVISIONS AND FACTIONS, THEY ARE TO HELP THEM HAVE REVELATION AND UNDERSTAND THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH. THEY ARE TO INSTILL IN THE MEMBERS THE TEACHINGS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND HAVE UNITY OF FAITH AND PURPOSE TO PARTAKE IN THE HOLY COMMUNION. FOR THE LORD'S TABLE IS NOT ABOUT EATING AND DRINKING BUT OBEDIENCE, REVELATION AND RESPECT TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST TILL HE RETURNS.

O how true is the word of God that where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law **(Proverbs 29:18)**. According to the New King James Bible Commentary, the Hebrew word for revelation speaks of revelatory vision; a word from God. Without God's revelation of the Law, the people flounder.

This is synonymous with struggle, stumble, falter, fumble, blunder, thrash, grope in darkness, blind. True happiness is discovered within the constraints of revelation. That is in the counsel of the Saviour. Yes in Christ, the Holy Spirit gives us the revelations and counsels of God for understanding and obedience.

MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT ENLIGHTEN US IN GOD'S WORD FOR UNDERSTANDING, REVELATION AND OBEDIENCE.

Paul's frankness was borne out of truth and revelation about the gospel of Jesus Christ; the word of God that saves humanity eternally, gives life of righteousness, offer hope of resurrection, service in the Lord's Vineyard and receipt of blessings and rewards. On these premises as an Apostle of Jesus Christ, he could not praise the backsliding Corinthians but rebuke them for their actions. For he was disappointed in them as the father of the Church of Corinth.

It made it look like a failure when in the true sense, he made righteous investments in the formation of the Church; teachings, prayers, counsels, and letters for the purposes of spiritual growth and maturity. Yes he chose to rebuke them than praise them in their backsliding state. For faithful are the wounds of a friend and are better than the deceitful kisses of an enemy **(Proverbs 27:6)**. **For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).**

NO INVESTOR IS HAPPY WITH FAILURES AND NON – PROFITS ESPECIALLY AS A RESULT OF BAD PRACTICES. LIKEWISE ALL MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERS MUST REBUKE TO CORRECT ALL FAILURES TO SPIRITUAL, HUMAN AND PHYSICAL INVESTMENTS THAT ARE BLAMED ON THE BACKSLIDING STATE OF CHRISTIANS.

IF YOU TAKE SIDES WITH AN ENEMY OF THE CHURCH, YOU ARE AS GUILTY AS THAT ENEMY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. KEEP THE HOLY COMMUNION AS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST COMMANDED IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM FOR EDIFICATION PURPOSE AND NOT FOR SELF – SATISFACTION.

PRAYER

Our all Knowing and All Wise God, we pray to you for grace to overcome all the challenges and wrongdoings with regards to the Lord's Table in the Churches.

Help us to prepare ourselves prayerfully and meditatively so that we can have a united front to make the Church strong and vibrant in our confessions and works by the Holy Spirit.

We pray also for our Ministers and Church leaders to show leadership in teachings, prayers, authority, corrections and instructions in righteousness to bring meaning and revelation to spirituality of participation in the Churches.

And may we approach the Lord's Table in humility, reverence and respect with no iota of despise to it and our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

Help our understanding and revelation to make the Lord's Table a time and place for edification through obedience and sacrifice, and not for selfish interests and display of riches and abundance a human smartness.

All these we ask in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LORD'S TABLE IS NOT ABOUT EATING AND DRINKING BUT OBEDIENCE, REVELATION AND RESPECT TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST TILL HE RETURNS. THEREFORE LET OUR PREPARATION PRAYERFULLY AND MEDITATIVELY SIGNIFY LOVE, OBEDIENCE, REVELATION, RESPECT AND HONOUR TO CHRIST AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS AND MINISTERS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

WHEN MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS ARE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT; WHEN THE CHURCH IS RECOGNIZED AS A HOUSE OF PRAYER, DIVISIONS AND FACTIONS AND BACKSLIDING ARE NOT TOLERATED BUT ENFORCEMENT AND OBEDIENCE TO THE TEACHINGS AND INSTITUTIONS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. FOR THIS TRUTH, THE LORD'S TABLE IS TO STRENGTHEN OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND WORKS THROUGH UNITY AND PURPOSE DRIVEN LIVES BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE FIRST TIME THE LORD'S TABLE WAS CELEBRATED WAS IN THE EVENING. HENCE THE COINED NAME OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. YET ITS SPIRITUAL RELEVANCE TO OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH, CHURCH GATHERINGS AND UNITY OF FAITH MEANS THAT IT CAN BE TAKEN ANYTIME OF THE DAY WHETHER MORNING, AFTERNOON, EVENING AND NIGHT. ON THIS TRUTH AND REVELATION, EDIFICATION OF THE CHURCH IS PREFERRED TO SELFISH INTERESTS THROUGH OBEDIENCE, FELLOWSHIP AND UNITY. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

INSTITUTION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION BY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

INSPIRATION

Paul focus now on the institution of the Holy Communion by our Lord Jesus Christ to increase the faith of the Corinthians Believers. As stated, his agenda was to see Christ crucified and formed in them **(1 Corinthians 2:2)**; messages targeted at making their faith be in the power of God and not the wisdom of men **(1 Corinthians 4:4 & 5)**. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 11:23 – 26 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner also the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

A1// RECEIVED FROM THE LORD AND DELIVER FAITHFULLY

1 Corinthians 11:23 – For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

Now Paul justifies his orders, instructions, rebukes and corrections about the Lord's Table by linking it to his apostolic ministry and the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. For the Holy Communion originated from the Lord Jesus Christ. As he received from Him; as he learnt from Him; as taught by Him to His first disciples, so he delivered to the Church of Corinth. In other words, Paul emulated the works of Jesus as His first Apostles, and the disciple Ananias who prayed for the restoration of his sight in the city of Damascus.

It means to say that Paul became a recipient of the institution of the Holy Communion when he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ; when he was chosen to be His Apostle and delivered to the Churches when he became an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ **(1 Corinthians 1:1)**.

New King James Bible Commentary: I received – Speaks of Paul's revelation from Christ which he had delivered to the people. Paul explained it again.

YOU HAVE TO BE A RECIPIENT AND PARTAKER OF THE HOLY COMMUNION BEFORE YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO DELIVER IT TO THE CHURCHES. EMULATE THE EXAMPLES OF APOSTLE PAUL AND HAVE GLORIOUS CHURCH.

Truly without being chosen to serve the Lord as a Believing Christian; without having a life and ministry with integrity **(2 Corinthians 4:2)**; without the anointing of the Holy Spirit **(Acts 10:38)**, you cannot instruct the Church in the proper conduct and participation in the Lord's Table. The Psalmist provides timely information of qualified persons who can

call on him anytime and even on the day of trouble and would be delivered. For they believe and obey His word (**Psalms 50:1 – 15**). Again the Psalmist provides timely information on unqualified persons, who can be termed as unbelievers and sinners, to speak on behalf of God. God calls them wicked because they hate instruction of righteousness and cast His words behind. That is they ignore His words or choose the word of man over His word of righteousness (**Psalms 50:16 &17**). Again the bible reveals that such category of people do not only sin themselves but connive and condone with sinners like thieves to steal. They also speak evil against their own brethren (**Psalms 5:18 – 20**).

The bible says that God is against such people and would rebuke them in the face because His holy nature does not agree with their sinful and evil nature at all. Therefore the unbelieving and the wicked shall experience God's wrath and judgment unless they repent (**Psalms 50:21 & 22**).

The good news is that we have the promise and assurance of God's word that whoever praise and glorifies Him, and conducts himself or herself righteously, would experience His salvation in life, ministry and the Church (**Psalms 50:23**).

YOU HAVE TO BE QUALIFIED AS A BELIEVING CHRISTIAN CHOSEN BY THE LORD TO MINISTER HIS WORD OF SALVATION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS TO PEOPLE BEFORE YOU CAN STAND, WRITE AND INSTRUCT THEM IN WAYS OF GOD. FOR SUCH CATEGORY OF PEOPLE, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WITH THEM. THE UNQUALIFIED PERSON CAN ONLY RECEIVE REBUKE AND JUDGMENT WITH TIME BECAUSE GOD'S WARNING IS TRUE. BE CHRISTIAN.

A2// PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING; BREAD BROKEN AS BODY OF THE LORD

1 Corinthians 11:24 – and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

Paul then recounted the night of Jesus' betrayal by Judas Iscariot as the same night of institution of the Lord's Table to secure continuous fellowship even after His death, resurrection and ascension to heaven. It was a table sitting of Jesus with all His twelve disciples. He took the bread, blessed and broke and said **“Take, eat; this is My body.”(Matthew 26:26, Mark 14:22)**. The gospel of Luke gives a much more detailed account where Jesus took the bread and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to them saying, **“This is My body which is given to you; do this in remembrance of Me.” (Luke 22:19)**

The command to celebrate the Lord's Supper as given by Jesus was followed by the Apostles and the Prophets to revive and maintain their fellowship with Him. **“Do this in remembrance of Him”** was faithfully practiced and Paul made sure that the Church of Corinth too practiced it in righteousness, and not in sin.

In quoting the words and occasion of the Lord's Supper by Jesus, Paul justified his message to be scriptural and Christ centred, and not self – centred. It means to say also

that Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper had to maintain its righteous nature for deep fellowship just as Jesus commanded the first disciples. Hence his righteous interventions.

PAUL'S MESSAGE HERE IS THAT THE PRACTICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WAS INSTITUTED BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST JUST BEFORE HIS BETRAYAL. IT WAS THE MAIN ACTIVITY WITHIN THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASSOVER. BY THIS TRUTH, HIS BODY BECAME THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB TO REDEEM PEOPLE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN, EVIL AND WICKEDNESS. HENCE SCRIPTURAL BASIS AND REFERENCES TO ENCOURAGE AND EDIFY THE CHURCH.

THE SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP AND UNITY OF FAITH AND PURPOSE TO JESUS CHRIST CHARACTERIZED THE SITTING DOWN AND READINESS FOR THE INSTITUTION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION.

Take note that whenever the Holy Communion is observed by breaking bread symbolic of Jesus' body, the right and acceptable motive is remembrance of Jesus and not eating and drinking.

THE CENTRAL PERSONALITY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER IS OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. AS LONG AS THE CHURCH CELEBRATES HIM THROUGH FELLOWSHIP IN THE PARTICIPATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE DO IT IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM.

It epitomizes the revelations of John the Baptist when he saw Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (**John 1:29 & 36**). By this truth, John prophesied the death of Jesus that would save humanity eternally.

WHEN WE ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT LIKE JOHN THE BAPTIST, OUR EYES WILL BE OPENED WITH REVELATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS CHRIST BEING THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD.

The bible says that to everything there is a season, there is a time for every purpose under heaven (**Ecclesiastics 3:1**).

There is a time to gain and a time lose, a time to keep and a time to throw away (**Ecclesiastics 3:6**), and the same day of betrayal and institution of the Lord's Supper are memorable moments that contributed to the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy.

IN THE WORKS OF GOD, THINGS DON'T JUST HAPPEN. THEY FIT INTO HIS ETERNAL PLANS IN LINE WITH THE SCRIPTURES AND PROPHECY. THE DAY OF BETRAYAL BY JUDAS ISCARIOT AND THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S TABLE BY JESUS WERE FULFILLMENT OF THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY.

B// PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING; WINE AS BLOOD OF THE LORD

1 Corinthians 11:25 – In the same manner also the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink in remembrance of Me.”

Paul then recounted also the night of Jesus’ betrayal by Judas Iscariot as the same night of institution of the Lord’s Table to secure continuous fellowship even after His death, resurrection and ascension to heaven. After breaking the bread into two symbolic of His body shed for the remission of sins and commanding them to celebrate it in remembrance of Him, Jesus took the cup of wine saying **“This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.” (Luke 22:20) Matthew states as “Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” (Matthew 26:27 – 30, Mark 14:23 – 25).**

The command to celebrate the Lord’s Supper as given by Jesus was followed by the Apostles and the Prophets to revive and maintain their fellowship with Him. **“Do this in remembrance of Him”** was faithfully practiced and Paul made sure that the Church of Corinth too practiced it in righteousness, and not in sin.

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It epitomizes the revelations of John the Baptist when he saw Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world **(John 1:29 & 36)**. By this truth, John prophesied the death of Jesus that would save humanity eternally.

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It is also a reminder of the words of Jesus early in ministry that His disciples had to eat His body and drink His blood if they were to be part of Him. As a result, many of His disciples abandoned Him because this was a hard saying for them **(John 6:51 – 60)**. Therefore the institution of the Lord's Table was fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy. It means to say then that Paul's timely intervention in the Church of Corinth about the correct process and procedures in the celebration of the Holy Communion was justified.

WHEN THE WORDS OF A MAN SPOKEN BY INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES TO PASS, IT CONFIRMS THE WORKS OF GOD AND THE END CROWNS IT ALL.

WHEN JESUS SPOKE OF HIS BODY AS FOOD TO BE EATEN AND BLOOD AS DRINK, MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES ABANDONED HIM BUT THOSE WHO REMAINED HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, DEATH AND RESURRECTION AND EVEN ASCENSION, AND LATER AS THE CHURCH BORN BY THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

C// CONTINUOUS FELLOWSHIP FOR REVIVAL AND ESTABLISHMENT IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

1 Corinthians 11:26 – For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Paul made the Corinthians aware that as often that they celebrated the Holy Communion, they proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. They affirm, confess and proclaim their belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus to have saved humanity of their sins and received the gift of eternal life; the hope of resurrection from the dead.

THE CENTRAL PERSONALITY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER IS OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. AS LONG AS THE CHURCH CELEBRATES HIM THROUGH FELLOWSHIP IN THE PARTICIPATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE DO IT IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM.

This is New King James Bible Commentary: You proclaim the Lord's death till He comes – It means that the Lord's Supper looks back to Christ's death and forward to His second coming (Matthew 26:29, Mark 14:25, Luke 22:18).

It means to say that the Church has this divine responsibility and mandate to let the world know of Jesus' fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy that culminated in His death and resurrection. The Lord's Table is now our fellowship with the Lord and spiritual renewal to proclaim His death till the promise of His second coming is fulfilled.

On this truth and revelation, Paul made sure that the Corinthians Believers understood the process, procedures and significance of the instituted Lord's Table for obedience. Hence his rebukes and corrective measures in writing to the Church of Corinth.

A CHURCH WHOSE LEADERSHIP IS INSTRUMENTAL IN MAKING MEMBERS UNDERSTAND THE TEACHINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER BENEFIT FROM SPIRITUAL RENEWAL IN CHRIST, UNITY, PURPOSEFUL CHRISTIAN LIVES AND WORKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT UNTO GOD.

As a Church, we are to make our confessions and statements and perform our works in the name of Jesus (Colossians 3:17). Follow the Lord's way beyond human teachings and doctrines. What God has said is His word; What Jesus has accomplished is the word of God and work of God. Therefore what is written is written and what is prophesied is prophesied.

FOLLOW THE WAY OF CHRIST AND BE BLESSED ETERNALLY. YES THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER.

It carries the same passion of God of His mighty deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt and parting the Red Sea into two for them to walk on dry ground to the other side. Also the passion of God was His protective work for the Israelites by letting the sea water come back to cover Pharaoh's soldiers to end the Israelites bondage in Egypt (Exodus 14:21 – 31). The revelation here is that if God's work of deliverance constantly served as a reminder to backsliding Israelites to repent and return to God (Deuteronomy 5:15, 7:18, 15:15), then the Lord's Supper which is popularly termed as the Lord's Table or Holy Communion should be a constant reminder also to Christ's giving of His body for sin and His blood as the New Covenant of relationship with God for our salvation (Psalms 77:11).

IF GOD TOLD THE ISRAELITES TO REMEMBER ALWAYS HIS MIGHTY WORKS OF DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT THROUGH THE RED SEA INTO THE PROMISED LAND TO OVERCOME THEIR REBELLIOUS AND BACKSLIDING NATURE, THEN THE CHURCH UPHOLDS THE TESTIMONY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S TABLE IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM ALWAYS. FOR BY IT, OUR FAITH IN CHRIST IS RENEWED AND WE ARE REVIVED TO BE COMMITTED AND FAITH IN THE HOPE OF HIS SECOND COMING.

PRAYER

Our Loving and Blessed God who has given us the opportunity to fellowship and renew our Christian faith in Christ, we thank You for the institution of the Lord's Supper by Your Son Jesus Christ.

We pray that we will be guided by knowledge, revelation and the Holy Spirit to partake of it for spiritual renewal, strength and edification.

We pray also that Church leadership will always make reference to the origination of the Lord's Supper to teach and instruct the Churches in the way of Christ's righteousness for effective participation and unity of the Body of Christ.

We pray also that the institution of the Lord's Table would be our constant reminder to revive our Christian faith and be committed and faithful in the hope of Christ's second coming.

Let Your grace abound on us in the name of Jesus. Amen.

EVERY GOOD THING OR BAD THING HAS A SOURCE AND ORIGINATION. FOR THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN. SO ALSO THE CHURCH TESTIFIES CONFIDENTLY THAT THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WAS BY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ON THE DAY THAT HE WAS BETRAYED. THE DEVIL HAS NO HAND IN IT BUT FULFILLMENT OF SCRIPTURE AND PROPHECY. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HOLY COMMUNION IS THAT IT RENEWS OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST AND STRENGTH TO DECLARE THE BLESSINGS OF HIS BODY BROKEN FOR US AND BLOOD AS THE NEW COVENANT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND WORKS UNTO GOD UNTIL THE PROMISE OF HIS SECOND COMING IS FULFILLED. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE HOLY COMMUNION; JUDGEMENT AGAINST UNWORTHY PARTAKERS

INSPIRATION

The Lord's Table as instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ on the Day of His betrayal was timely and meant to continue fellowship of the brethren with Him even after His death, resurrection and return to the Father in heaven. Self – abuse or abuse by the Church is not to be tolerated in any form hence Paul's warning of the Lord's judgment if his counsels were ignored.

The bible says that the Lord disciplines those He loves. We are not to despise the chastening of the Lord or detest His correction (**Proverbs 3:11 & 12, Hebrews 12:6**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 11:27 – 30 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. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

A// BIG WARNING TO PARTAKERS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER IN SIN

1 Corinthians 11:27 – 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.

The use of the word “**therefore**” suggests a reference point earlier made by Paul. It has a connecting factor to a previous message. This connecting message is Paul's historical account of the institution of the Lord's Supper by our Lord Jesus Christ placing emphasis on bread and wine that symbolized His body for the forgiveness of sins and blood as new covenant relationship (**1 Corinthians 11:23 – 25**). Also Paul's closing message on the institution of the Lord's Supper was on the charge to proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. That is the Lord's Table makes us realize the significance of Christ's death and anticipation of His second coming through a committed and fruitful relationship (**1 Corinthians 11:26**).

Paul's confidence and boldness was raised up after stating the origination and institution of the Lord's Supper to the Corinthians Believers. Truthfully, it was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ without any contention. It was also time to let them know that the Lord's Supper is holy and should be accorded reverence in participation of it.

WHAT IS OF GOD IN CHRIST SHOULD BE OUR CONFIDENCE AND BOLDNESS TO STAND BY THE TRUTH, SPEAK, WRITE AND DECLARE IT TO OUR AUDIENCE.

William Shakespeare wrote about the great Roman Emperor who said: Cowards die many times before their deaths; The valiant never taste death but once – Julius Caesar

What this means is that the fear to face challenging situations makes you lose a valuable part of your life equivalent to a death situation. It can cost you your name, image, and glory because inaction has dire consequences. Therefore cowards die many times before their death but the valiant, courageous and strong hearted are confident and bold to face and overcome all challenging situations. And death is tasted once as the natural death.

What was Paul's message here? Whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy way is guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. It means that those who partake of the Lord's Supper in sin have already been judged of making non – effective the body and blood of Jesus. That is to make Jesus' sacrificial death through crucifixion of His human body and the blood of the New Covenant a lie, disrespectful and powerless.

THE JUDGMENT OF HEAVEN PRONOUNCES GUILTY TO ALL PERSONS WHO EATS OF THE LORD'S BODY (BREAD) AND DRINK HIS BLOOD (WINE) UNWORTHILY. THIS IS WHAT I CALL MOCKERY OF THE LORD'S TABLE WHERE THERE IS NO FELLOWSHIP AND RENEWAL OF STRENGTH AND FAITH IN CHRIST.

It means to say that whoever breaks the sanctity of the Lord's Supper despises it and makes it contemptible. Hence the supreme court of heaven with Jesus as the Judge pronounces you guilty. For God has committed all judgment to the Son that all may honour Him just like the Father **(John 5:22 & 23)**.

KNOW THAT THE SON IS GIVEN THE POWER TO JUDGE RIGHTEOUSLY AS THE FATHER. ACCORD HIM RECOGNITION AND RESPECT ALSO IN PARTAKING OF THE LORD'S TABLE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND NOT IN SIN.

According to the New King James Bible Commentary, eating the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner refers to the way in which a person eats the Lord's Supper. The Corinthians had been making the meal a time of overeating and getting drunk rather than a time of refreshing on the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

B// SELF – EXAMINATION BEFORE EATING OF THE LORD'S TABLE

1 Corinthians 11:28 – But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

Paul then prescribed a way out of this sinful situation. The Corinthians Believers were charged to examine themselves and get rid of all sin, evil and wickedness. This requires an introspection and self – examination by the gospel of Jesus Christ to verify the state of your heart.

SELF – EXAMINATION AND INTROSPECTION ARE NECESSARY TO BE CLEANSED FROM SIN BEFORE ONE PARTAKES OF THE LORD’S TABLE.

Do you still believe in Jesus as the Son of God who died for your sins and resurrected from the dead to give you eternal life? Are you being led by the Holy Spirit to live a life of obedience and righteousness to God? Are you part of a united Church or a divisive Church with factions? Do you have secret sins in your life? Even in Paul’s second epistle to the Corinthians Believers, he emphasized testing and examining themselves with the gospel of Jesus Christ to see whether they were still in the Christian faith and were not found in a backsliding state **(2 Corinthians 13:5)**.

SIN IS SIN WHETHER SMALL OR BIG IN THE SIGHT OF GOD. FOR IT IS JUDGED BY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AS THE WORD OF GOD AND LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

As Paul told the Corinthians Believers, judge yourself and repent of your sins and confess them for forgiveness before you approach the Lord’s Table and partake of it. The bible says that he who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy **(Proverbs 28:13)**. It means to say that assurance of forgiveness is there for those who acknowledge their sins and forsake their evil ways. For they prosper unlike those who covers and hides their sins.

We know also that Believing Christians can sin unconsciously and consciously. Hence the Apostle John’s message is that “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness **(1 John 1:8 & 9)**. This is assurance of forgiveness of sins for the Church anytime we falter before the Lord. We are not to remain in sin even if people make it look like we are not forgivable. Rather we must believe in the word of God and confess our sins to be forgiven in the name of Jesus. Hallelujah.

WHEN WE BECOME JUDGES OF OUR THOUGHTS, WORDS, HABITS, BEHAVIOURS AND CHARACTER, THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO FACE GOD’S JUDGMENT. CONFESS YOUR SINS TO GOD IN THE NAME OF JESUS AND BE FORGIVEN. MAINTAIN YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH ALWAYS AND ALSO BEFORE YOU GO TO PARTAKE IN THE LORD’S TABLE. BE HOLY; BE RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU.

C// JUDGMENT AGAINST THOSE WHO DESPISE THE LORD’S TABLE

1 Corinthians 11:29 – For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.

Again Paul’s seriousness and determination to correct the wrong motives and attitudes with regard to the Lord’s Table repeated the need for self – examination in order to escape the judgment of God. By this truth, he restated God’s judgment against all person’s who

mistreat and despise His Son Jesus Christ and His table of fellowship (**Psalms 2:12**). For in sin they drink unto judgment and are undiscerning of the power of the Lord's body.

WHEN THE LORD SPEAKS OF A MATTER TWICE, IT REVEALS A MATTER OF URGENCY FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN. HENCE THE REPETITION OF PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS TO STOP VIOLATING THE SANCTITY OF THE LORD'S TABLE.

The example of the two corrupt sons of Eli, Hohni and Phinehas, shows high level of corruption in the house of the Lord; the Shiloh temple. How they despised the offerings of the Lord with their three pronged fork and forcibly took boiling meat from the pan. Also they took raw meat from the Israelites even before the fat in the meat was roasted on fire. Hence their sins were great and grievous before the Lord because they trampled underfoot the offerings of the Lord (**1 Samuel 2:12 – 17**).

Another major sin of the two sons of Eli was their fornication with the lady ushers of the temple. They had sex with them in the line of duties as priests and not ordinary people. Then they stood before the Lord and ministered the holy things to Him and the people. When Eli heard of this bad report, he questioned his two sons and warned them of the Lord's judgment (**1 Samuel 2:22 – 25**). I am sure they denied involvement in these sins. They covered their sins and the Lord's judgment came upon them as prophesied (**1 Samuel 2:27 – 36**). If they had admitted their sins before their father Eli and confessed to God for forgiveness, they would have received forgiveness. But this shows us the word of God in spoken prophecy or writing is true and powerful to enforce God's will by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore we believe the word of God that those eat and drink unworthily before the Lord brings judgment unto themselves. Only repentance and receipt of forgiveness in the name of Jesus will save them.

THE CORRUPT PRACTICES OF THE TWO SONS OF ELI, HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS ARE STILL PREVALENT IN SOME OF OUR CHURCHES TODAY. NOT ONLY PRIESTS BUT CHURCH LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION HAVE STOLEN AND STILL STEAL OFFERINGS, TITHES AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE SWEAT AND TOIL OF THE PEOPLE.

SEXUAL CORRUPTION HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN SOME OF OUR CHURCHES WHEN RAPE AND PREGNANCY CHARGES HAVE BEEN LEVELLED AGAINST KNOWN SPIRITUALLY MINDED PERSONS. YES THEY COULD NOT BEAR THE FRUIT OF SELF – CONTROL TO OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS. A CRITICAL LOOK IN ALL CHURCHES SHOW THAT MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERS PLAY LEADING ROLES IN PARTAKING OF THE HOLY COMMUNION. HENCE THE LORD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST ALL SUCH PERSONS WHO DESPISE HIS HOLY SACRAMENT. REPENT

D// DESPISERS OF THE LORD'S TABLE SUFFER BODILY WEAKNESSES, SICKNESSES AND DEATH

1 Corinthians 11:30 – For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

Paul then explained bodily weaknesses among Christians such as sicknesses and diseases, and accidents, sudden deaths and mysterious deaths of some Christians. He revealed that they were due to participation of the Lord's Table in sin; overeating and over drinking, divisions, factions, and wrong motives among other desecrations besides reported sexual immoralities identified early in the Church formation.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN THAT CONTAMINATES THE LORD'S TABLE IS THE LORD'S JUDGMENT ON OFFENDERS; EITHER BODILY WEAKNESS THROUGH SICKNESSES, DISEASES OR PREMATURE DEATH. BE WARNED. FOR THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS, THEIR OFFENSES WERE OVEREATING AND OVER DRINKING, DIVISIONS, FACTIONS, AND WRONG MOTIVES AMONG OTHER DESECRATIONS.

It is a message that lies, deceit, anger, bullies, cheats, imposters, unbelievers, occult practitioners, witches and wizards, fetishism, magicians, pride, fornication, adultery, lesbian, masturbator, homosexual, prostitution, pornography, stealing, armed robbery, insults among the lot also attract God's judgment. With God know that every sin is a sin be it small or big, open or secret and you are to repent of them and be right with God before you can partake in the Lord's Table for a blessing.

KNOW THAT SIN IS SIN WHETHER SMALL OR BIG, OPEN OR SECRET. HENCE NOBODY IS QUALIFIED TO PARTAKE OF THE HOLY COMMUNION IN SIN UNLESS REPENTANCE AND CONFESSION OF SINS ARE DONE IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

According to the New King James Bible Commentary, sleep refers to the death of Christians **(1 Corinthians 15:18, 1 Thessalonians 4:15 & 16)**. In this passage, it refers to untimely death, a punishment suffered by some Christians who fail to examine themselves at the Lord's Supper.

EXAMINE YOURSELF AS A BELIEVING CHRISTIAN, CHURCH LEADER AND CHRISTIAN LEADER, AND MINISTER IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE SANCTITY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION.

The Lord warns us to stop perverting His righteous ways and be obedient to His gospel of salvation **(Proverbs 10:9, Acts 13:10)**.

The Hebrew writer counsels us to lay aside every weight of sin that easily ensnares us in order to run with endurance the race set before us. Besides, we are to look unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith who endured the cross and overcame its shame to qualify and sit at the right hand side of God the Father **(Hebrews 12:1 & 2)**.

PUT AWAY SIN FROM YOUR LIVES, MINISTRIES AND THE CHURCH AND LOOK UNTO JESUS AS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. RUN WITH ENDURANCE AND MAKE THE HOLY COMMUNION A TIME OF REFRESHING FROM THE LORD AND NOT A TIME OF BACKSLIDING IN SIN.

In the same way we are counseled to run with endurance, Paul's message to the Corinthians Believers and to every Believing Christian, Church and Christian leaders and Ministers is to run with truth about the origination, revelation and holiness of the Lord's Table. This is the way to go without sin in order to be blessed eternally.

WHEN WE RUN WITH TRUTH ABOUT THE ORIGINATION AND REVELATION ABOUT THE LORD'S TABLE, WE WILL NOT PARTAKE OF IT IN SIN BUT RIGHTEOUSNESS.

PRAYER

Our merciful God, we pray that Your Holy Spirit will always convict us of sin before we go to the Lord's Table.

Help us to partake of the Lord's Table in righteousness through the teachings of Your word and preparations from Ministers and other Church leaders.

Let the confidence and boldness of the Holy Spirit inspire Your Ministers and Church and Christian leaders to preach against all sin perpetuated by Christians who abuse the Lord's Table.

And convict us by Your word and Holy Spirit. For we are determined to be worthy partakers of the Holy Communion and not unworthy partakers.

Keep us alive by the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to be in thy perfect will O God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

DON'T SUFFER FOOLISHLY FROM SICKNESSES AND DISEASES AND BODILY WEAKNESSES AS JUDGMENT OF THE LORD FOR DESPISING HIM AND HIS TABLE OF FELLOWSHIP IN SIN. YOU CAN AVERT THEM. REPENT! NANA KWAKU DUODU

DON'T DIE A FOOLISH DEATH IN SIN BECAUSE OF DESPISING THE HOLY COMMUNION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. REPENT OR PERISH FOR THE SWORD OF JUDGMENT OF THE LORD IS READY TO BE EXECUTED ON ALL PERSONS WHO PERVERT THE RIGHTEOUS WAYS OF THE LORD. NANA KWAKU DUODU

**PARTAKERS OF THE HOLY COMMUNION;
SELF – JUDGEMENT OR EXPERIENCE THE LORD’S JUDGMENT**

INSPIRATION

Despite the warnings of the Lord’s judgment with bodily pain and even death if the Corinthians Believers partook of the Lord’s Supper in sin consciously, he provided hope again for redemption. For His perfect will for them was obedience and not disobedience.

The bible says that ...**behold, obedience is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams (1 Samuel 15:22)**. Again, the bible says that **“To do righteousness and justice is acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice (Proverbs 21:3)**. Truly God is interested in our obedience to the complete gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and life of righteousness than sacrifices and offerings in a dutiful manner. Let’s study further.

1 Corinthians 11:31 & 32 – For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

A// SELF – JUDGMENT TO ESCAPE THE LORD’S JUDGMENT

1 Corinthians 11:31 – For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

Paul was about to end his work of transforming the Corinthians Believers concerning reverence at the Lord’s Table and partaking of it in righteousness and not in sin. Having warned them of the Lord’s judgment if they partook it in sin, he counseled them to do a good introspection of their attitudes and make amends where necessary.

EVERY MINISTER AND CHURCH LEADER MUST USE THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL TO INSTILL RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE CHURCH; THE LORD’S SUPPER AND ITS CONDUCT, PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION.

If only we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. Here Paul sees the need and wisdom for the Corinthians Believers to be conscious of the way Jesus conducted the holy sacrament with His disciples during the Passover celebration in Jerusalem. They were to be guided by its revelation and purpose to make righteous decisions prayerfully and meditatively to enable participation acceptable to the Lord.

They were to acknowledge and confess their sins through the knowledge and convictions of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit **(John 16:8)** and not found to have violated the sanctity of the Lord’s Table **(1 Corinthians 11:27)**.

BEING CONSCIOUS OF SIN AND RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH GOSPEL KNOWLEDGE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE CONVICTIONS WE CANNOT IGNORE AS A CHURCH. FOR THE LORD’S TABLE IS HOLY.

By this message, Paul reinforced the Lord's determination to judge all unrighteousness pertaining to conduct and participation of the fellowship of His body and blood. It means to say that there is no escape from the Lord's judgment if it is despised. When there is sin, only confession and abstinence of sin as a Believing Christian qualifies you to partake of it without being judged by the Lord.

It means to say that God searches our hearts and examines our minds and motives anytime we partake of His body and blood in fellowship **(Jeremiah 17:9 & 10)**. Remember, Jesus stood by the treasury and observed the poor widow put in money (two mites) and was adjudged the best giver than all. For she put in her last money in love and sacrificial manner unlike the others who gave offerings out of their abundance. Truly Jesus observed that the two mites given was her whole livelihood savings meaning that there was nothing left for her to live after the offering unlike the others who still had money to eat and live comfortably **(Luke 21:1 – 4)**.

GOD IS WATCHING US IN EVERYTHING WE DO AS A CHURCH OF BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHURCH LEADERS, MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS. THE NEXT TIME YOU PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S TABLE, REMEMBER THAT THE LORD IS WATCHING AND LOOKING INTO YOUR HEART AND MIND TO FIND FAITH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS. BE WISE.

Again, it reveals that Believing Christians, Church leaders and Christian leaders and Ministers can judge themselves and free themselves from all sins. In this context, the Corinthians Believers were to make decisions about their tomorrow and future in partaking of the Lord's Table. Once they made up their minds to stop all their ills and approach the Lord's Table in righteousness, reverence and respect, the grace of God in Christ was to come upon them for a blessing.

TO JUDGE OURSELVES AS A CHURCH IS TO MAKE RIGHTEOUS DECISIONS THAT REVEAL HUMILITY AND DETERMINATION TO REVERE AND RESPECT THE LORD'S TABLE BY THE GRACE OF GOD. IT IS ABOUT PUTTING YOUR LIFE SIDE BY SIDE BY THE BIBLE AND TEACHINGS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

B// SEE THE LORD'S JUDGMENT AND DISCIPLINE IN LOVE

1 Corinthians 11:32 – But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Paul's message to the Corinthians Believers here was that the response of the Lord would be to judge them like the way a father whips or beats his stubborn child to instill a life of decency and comportment in him. If they would be chastened by the Lord, then the reason must be because of disobedience and stubbornness.

Another reason for the discipline of the Lord when we disobey the word of the Lord is to correct and restore us so that we would not be condemned with the world of unbelieving and sinners. By this gospel truth, Paul revealed God's love even in the midst of

chastisement. That is God will punish them if they partook of the body and blood of His Son in sin but in love, patience, self – suffering, goodness and righteousness.

The bible says that the Lord chastises those He loves and He does it so that they would be treated as legitimate children. Besides, the chastisement of the Lord does not look sweet from the beginning but has the promise and reward of restoration of peace between you and God and a bright and eternal future of your Christian faith. Hence the call to endure the discipline of God which is purposed driven to correct us of all wrongdoings and unrighteousness. We are not to be discouraged at all when we are chastised and rebuked by the Lord but to emulate His righteous example when He endured hostility on the cross for our sake **(Hebrews 12:3 – 11)**.

I tell you the truth that the Lord does not judge His Church as long as we obey His word in righteousness by the leading of the Holy Spirit. It means to say that whenever the Lord judges His Church, it is to correct us and make us clean and holy with righteous works. Jesus told the disciples that all people that the Father had given Him, none of them was missing except the son of perdition, Judas Iscariot **(John 17:12)**. Even Judas Iscariot, I dare say that his betrayal of Jesus was scriptural and prophetic and this explains why Jesus lost him to the devil **(Luke 22:4,6,21,22,46,48)**.

THE RIGHTEOUS INTENT AND PURPOSES OF THE LORD CONCERNING HIS CHURCH ARE TO CORRECT US IN WRONGDOINGS AND INSTILL HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IN LINE WITH HIS WORD AND SPIRIT, AND NOT TO JUDGE US.

Therefore Paul told the Corinthians Believers to see the Lord's judgment as chastening in order not to be condemned with the world. It means to say that God loves His Church who have responded in faith to the salvation work by His Son Jesus Christ. Once you believe Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, you earn the love of God. And Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and He determines the management of His Church at all levels.

LEARNING FROM PAUL, LET THE CHURCH KNOW THAT DESPITE THEIR SIN WITH THE LORD'S SUPPER PROCESS AND PROCEDURES, THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD IS TO CORRECT AND SAVE THEM SO THAT THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED WITH THE WORLD.

It means to say that whenever a Church suffers the punishment of the Lord because of sin, the wise thing to do is to repent of our sinful ways and be restored to His favour again. For the chastening and discipline of our Lord are always love to correct and restore us, and never to destroy us.

WISE PEOPLE REPENT OF THEIR SINFUL WAYS WHENEVER THEY GO THROUGH THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD. BE DISCERNING AS PAUL EXPECTED OF THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS.

Revisiting the words of Jesus: The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly

(John 10:10). Clearly, Jesus revealed His righteous intent and agenda in the lives of people and His disciples and even to guard against the works and agenda of the devil.

THE REVEALED AGENDA OF THE DEVIL AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ARE TO PREPARE OUR MINDS, MAKE RIGHTEOUS DECISIONS AND APPRECIATE THE WORKS OF THE LORD IN OUR LIVES, MINISTRIES AND THE CHURCH.

It means to say that the same righteous intent and agenda of the Lord is towards His Church. He does not have the spirit of the devil to steal, kill and destroy but His nature is to punish us for wrong doings and awaken us to righteousness for repentance and forgiveness and restoration purposes.

KNOW THAT THE NATURE OF GOD IS NOT TO JUDGE AND DESTROY US BUT CORRECT US OF WRONGDOINGS AND MAKE THE CHURCH HOLY.

The message of Paul is also clear that there is a Day of Judgement of this world where all sin would be destroyed. God's righteous intent and purposes is to make our separation from the world distinctively clear through punishment of His sinful children for correctional purpose. As the Holy Spirit convicts, repentance must follow and forgiveness and restoration achieved.

THE JUDGMENT DAY OF THE LORD IS FOR UNBELIEVERS AND SINNERS. BUT FOR THE CHURCH, GOD'S RIGHTEOUS INTENT AND PURPOSES IS TO MAKE OUR SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD DISTINCTIVELY CLEAR THROUGH PUNISHMENT WHENEVER WE BACKSLIDE IN SIN.

The bible tells us that if God has decided to punish His Church who sin against Him, then the punishment of the unbelieving and sinful world would be greater, severer and without mercy on the Judgment Day **(1 Peter 4:17)**. If we sin intentionally after we have received the knowledge of truth, there is no longer sacrifice of sins remaining for us but judgment **(Hebrews 10:26 – 29)**. Non – repentance because of disobedience makes you a recipient of God's judgment.

ONCE GOD PUNISHES AND CLEANSSES HIS CHURCH OF WRONGDOINGS AS PERTAINED IN THE CHURCH OF CORINTH, KNOW THAT THE JUDGMENT AGAINST THE WORLD WOULD BE GREATER, SEVERER AND WITHOUT MERCY ON THE JUDGMENT DAY. GOD WANTS YOU TO ESCAPE THE JUDGMENT OF THE WORLD.

WHEN WE HAVE REVELATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ETERNAL BENEFITS OF THE LORD'S CHASTENING AS A CHURCH, WE CANNOT BUT COOPERATE WITH HIM.

PRAYER

Our Merciful and Forgiving God, we pray as a Church for wisdom and obedience to Your righteous counsel and judge ourselves to get rid of sin in our lives concerning partaking of the Lord's Supper.

As the gospel of Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit convict us of sin, righteousness and judgment, give us the strength to repent and confess our sins for forgiveness.

We pray also as a Church that the punishment of the Lord because of abuse of the Lord's Supper would be endured by us to correct all wrongdoings in us towards the Lord's Supper participation.

We know from Your word that You chastise us in love so that we will not be judged with the world.

Therefore give us discerning hearts, humility and grace to be cleansed thoroughly with Your word and Spirit and life and Ministry and Church challenges.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GOD HAS OFFERED US TWO CHOICES OF EITHER JUDGING OURSELVES TO BE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER OR BE JUDGED BY HIM TO SAVE US FROM BEING JUDGED WITH THE WORLD OF UNBELIEVING AND SINNERS. EITHER WAY, OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE OR THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL STRENGTHEN US TO ENDURE HIS CHASTENING FOR CORRECTIONAL AND RESTORATION PURPOSES. NANA KWAKU DUODU

THE LORD'S TABLE; UNITY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS TO AVERT JUDGMENT

INSPIRATION

Despite the warnings of the Lord's judgment with bodily pain and even death if the Corinthians Believers partook of the Lord's Supper in sin consciously, he provided hope again for redemption. For His perfect will for them was obedience and not disobedience.

The bible says that**behold, obedience is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams (1 Samuel 15:22)**. Again, the bible says that **"To do righteousness and justice is acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice (Proverbs 21:3)**. Truly God is interested in our obedience to the complete gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and life of righteousness than sacrifices and offerings in a dutiful manner. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 11:33 & 34 – Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

A// COUNSEL TO HAVE PATIENCE AND WAIT FOR THE BRETHREN

1 Corinthians 11:33 – Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

Paul concluded this chapter of epistle by counseling the Corinthians Believers to have a waiting spirit for other Believers before going to the Lord's Table. To wait for one another meant that they were to prayerfully and meditatively come to the Lord's Table in a unified manner and not in a divisive manner; self – satisfaction and self – motive. For this is righteous to the Lord.

A CHURCH THAT IS UNIFIED IN THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST GO TO THE LORD'S TABLE TOGETHER WITH THE MIND OF CHRIST AND NOT THE MIND OF THE WORLD.

It was meant to correct the anomaly of recorded divisions due to the known factions **(1 Corinthians 11:18 – 20)**. Some of them went there early to eat before others **(1 Corinthians 11:21)**. Like the Church of Corinth, divisions as a result of factions are a recipe for abuse of the Holy Communion. Hence the need to go Paul's way and employ his leadership interventions to forestall unity, peace and fellowship in the Church and especially with conduct at the Lord's Table.

EVERY MINISTER AND CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN LEADER MUST USE THE GOD GIVEN AUTHORITY TO REBUKE AND COUNSEL AND INSTRUCT MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH TO ESCHEW SINFUL WAYS THAT DEFILE THE LORD'S TABLE.

Clearly, their gatherings was with wrong motives. Again the spirit and purpose of the Lord's Supper was to be achieved for a blessing as intended by our Lord Jesus Christ.

GO TO CHURCH AND TO THE LORD'S TABLE WITH REVELATION AS A BELIEVING CHRISTIAN, CHURCH LEADER AND CHRISTIAN LEADER AND MINISTER. HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST, THIS IS EASIER TO DO THAN HAVING THE MIND OF THE WORLD.

B\ COUNSEL TO SATISFY PHYSICAL HUNGER AT HOME; NOT AT THE LORD'S TABLE

1 Corinthians 11:34a – But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment.

Finally, Paul instructed the Corinthians Believers that they were to eat at home and satisfy their hunger and avert the judgment of the Lord. The Lord's Table was not the place of eating food and drinking to fill the stomachs like carnal people. It was a spiritual exercise that required eating a broken piece of bread and sipping little wine symbolic of Christ's body and blood that had been shared on the Cross of Calvary for forgiveness of sins and establishing a New Covenant with the Church. It was about dining with the Lord to rekindle our love and fellowship with Him as a Church.

It is also important to note that Paul's interest also was that partaking of the Lord's Table would unify and edify the Church as a whole and not divide the members for any reason. Hence his instruction to revere the Lord's Table by eating prayerfully and meditatively, and not a place for breakfast, lunch and supper. In other words, Paul's warning to them that their gathering must not be for judgment but a blessing. They were not to take away the spirituality of the Lord's Table through carnality. In other words, the Lord's Table is not the prerogative right of any one Believing Christian or group of Believing Christians but for the benefit and blessing of the Church. Hence actions and inactions are weighed by the Lord whether they were Holy Spirit led or not to honour and glorify God.

By this truth, Paul reminded them that God is ready to judge all desecration of the Lord's Table. That was the warning to them not to come and eat all the bread and drink all the wine and fill their stomachs as if they were in their homes or partying. But for the Lord's Supper, it is about fellowship and Communion in a prayerful and meditative way. It is about affirming and renewal of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Believing Christians, Church and Christian leaders and Ministers.

WHEN CARNALITY IS INTRODUCED INTO THE CHURCH, IT IS LIKE A STONE THROWN INTO A POOL OF WATER. IT PRODUCES RIPPLE EFFECTS TO CONTAMINATE THE CONDUCT AND SANCTITY OF THE LORD'S TABLE TOO. BUT THE JUDGMENT OF THE LORD IS INEVITABLE AND CAN ONLY BE REVERSED OR STOPPED WHEN THE SPIRIT AND SANCTITY OF THE LORD'S TABLE IS RESPECTED.

It confirms the word of Jesus quoted from **Deuteronomy 8:3** that man shall not live by bread alone but lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (**Matthew 4:4**,

Luke 4:4). Therefore the institution of the Lord's Supper is the spoken and written word of God for obedience by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

KNOW THAT THE INSTITUTION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION IS THE SPOKEN AND WRITTEN WORD OF GOD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

It is not about eating and drinking but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit **(Romans 14:17).**

NOT CARNALITY BUT SPIRITUALITY IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD. STRIVE FOR IT.

The bible is clear that gluttons are carnal people because they emphasize on the flesh more than the spiritual. Therefore we are told not to mix and associate with winebibbers and gluttonous eaters of meat **(Proverbs 23:20).** Again the bible warns us that a person who keeps the law as the word of God is a discerning son but a companion of gluttons shames his father **(Proverbs 28:7).** It means to say that a gluttonous person will eventually become carnal even if spiritual. That is prayer life, bible studies, Lord's Supper, evangelism, commitment, and obedience to the complete gospel of Jesus Christ would be low. But he who walks with wise men will be wise but a companion of fools will be destroyed **(Proverbs 13:20).**

OVEREATERS AND OVERDRINKERS CANNOT BE SPIRITUAL TO APPRECIATE THE LORD'S TABLE AND PARTAKE OF IT IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. THE CALL TO WALK WITH THE WISE IS NOW.

For such category of people care less about the word of God and things by the Holy Spirit and the Church. Nabal the first husband of Abigail was a typical example who mistreated David and his servants. Being a scoundrel, one of the notable things about him was his eating and drinking habits. He could be so drunk that his five senses were reduced to the barest minimum **(1 Samuel 25:37 & 38).**

The message here is that your nature and habits reflect at the Lord's Table for good or bad. If your faith in Christ is genuine and led by the Holy Spirit as a child of God, you will seek to do the will of God in obedience to the command of Jesus Christ. If your faith in Christ is false, your nature and habit are likely to influence you negatively towards the Lord's Table.

THIS IS VERY TRUE. ONE'S NATURE AND HABITS REFLECTS IN THE BELIEF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE HOLY COMMUNION. YES THE LORD'S ORDINANCE IS THE EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER AND SON. BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Hence the warning of the Lord's judgment to the Corinthians and even to the Church today and tomorrow to respect the Lord's Table, popularly called the Holy Communion, until Jesus returns.

THE WARNING OF THE LORD'S JUDGMENT AS PUNISHMENT IN LOVE TO CORRECT US IS IN FORCE JUST AS SELF – EXAMINATION AND SELF – JUDGMENT ARE ALSO IN FORCE. THE CHOICE IS YOURS BUT BE WISE.

Let us remember the words of Jesus to the Jews when they questioned and challenged Him concerning the testimony of the healed blind man from birth. Also the Pharisees subtle question to Jesus about being blind also: **Then Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains (John 9:41).** Yeah read the whole of **John chapter 9** to gain the story, testimony and revelation from the beginning to the end.

THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S TABLE IS THE TESTIMONY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. AS A CHURCH, WE ARE TO BELIEVE, CELEBRATE AND PRACTICE IT, AND HAVE FELLOWSHIP TO RENEW OUR FAITH FOR BLESSING. KEEP THE TESTIMONY ALIVE. EAT AND DINE WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

A Stitch in Time Saves Nine is a wise saying. This phrase refers to a hole in a cloth. This hole would certainly get bigger if not fixed in time. It means that a timely effort will prevent more work later. It certainly means prevention is better than cure.

IT MEANS TO SAY THAT THE EARLIER THE BETTER AND OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN CORRECTION

C// UNFINISHED BUSINESS; SET OF INSTRUCTIONS

1 Corinthians 11:4b – And the rest I will set in order when I come.

As Paul concluded his messages in this eleventh chapter of his epistle, he stated that there was more instructions to be given to them that would make the Church a better place for them. With this information, it shows that Paul was determined to correct all errors and backslidings in the Church of Corinth as their spiritual father **(1 Corinthians 4:15).**

It is more probable that Paul's letters had to be dispatched to the Corinthians Believers within the given time. This meant that he prepared for another set of instructions to complete his responses to solve their problems. This time, he wanted to be present with them in person and speak directly to them as a father speaks with his children.

This must have been reassuring to the Corinthians Believers who at one point thought that Paul had abandoned them. For this was the second time receiving assurances from Paul about his coming to the Corinthians Believers with the first **(1 Corinthians 4:19).**

Every Minister of the Lord must have a response and feedback plan to send messages to presiding Churches in writing as well as in person as God wills. When God makes away, be discerning and obey to encourage and edify the Church. Just be careful of the manipulations of certain Church members to suit their whims and caprices. Remember

Paul overcame by stating boldly that he would visit the Corinthians by power and will of God and not by the puff up spirit of those who wanted to bully him **(1 Corinthians 4:18 – 21)**.

It is important to note that Paul honoured his word by visiting the Church of Corinth as evident in his second epistle. For he was there in person to give them various instructions for Church growth numerically and spiritually as their spiritual father. His presence encouraged, strengthened and edified them to be committed and faithful in the Lord. We have a clue in his second letter to the Corinthians where he wrote about the benefit of two visit with one on his way to Macedonia and the second after his departure from there to Judea; return journey **(2 Corinthians 1:15 & 16)**. Again Paul gave a hint about visiting the Corinthians again but would be there to find in a state of sorrow but joy **(2 Corinthians 2:1 – 4)**.

THE WORK AND LOAD OF MINISTRY WORK WILL NOT PERMIT YOU RESPOND TO ALL CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS OF A CHURCH OR CHURCHES. BUT BE DISCERNING TO ADOPT PLANS TO DELIVER MESSAGES OF CORRECTION, HOPE AND BLESSING FOR EDIFICATION PURPOSE IN LETTERS AND PERSON. HAVE THE ATTITUDE AND STRATEGY OF PAUL BECAUSE IT WORKS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSES IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

PRAYER

Dear God, we pray as a Church to obey the ordinance of Your Son Jesus to have fellowship with Him through the institution of the Lord's Table.

Help us to have a united front that promotes righteousness at the Lord's Table and avert Your judgment.

With all the knowledge gained, may Your Holy Spirit help us to be like our Lord Jesus Christ and Apostle Paul.

Help us to repent of our wrong attitudes like the Church of Corinth and be united in word and works for blessing at the Lord's Table.

Help us to choose obedience over punishment for timely spiritual growth and maturity as Believing Christians, Church leaders, Christian leaders and Ministers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

IF WE DEFILE THE LORD'S TABLE, WE SHALL SUFFER THE PUNISHMENT OF THE LORD TO CORRECT OUR BACKSLIDING TO RESTORE OUR FAITH. FOR A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE. NANA KWAKU DUODU

IF I WERE YOU, I WILL TAKE THE EASIER WAY WHICH IS INTROSPECTION AND SELF – EXAMINATION AND SELF – JUDGMENT BEFORE PARTAKING OF THE LORD’S TABLE. FOR A STICH IN TIME SAVES NINE. UNITY OF FAITH AND PURPOSE FOR EDIFICATION PURPOSE ARE PREFERRED TO DIVISIONS AND FACTIONS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**



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