

The Lord's Supper, Part 1: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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Key Truth: The Lord's Supper is a reminder that Jesus' body was broken so that his Body (the Church) can be whole.

Throughout this letter Paul has been driving home the spiritual reality of oneness in Christ and the danger of living factiously against other believers. Disunity in the spiritual Body of Christ is antithetical to the nature of God and salvation. Christ saves us to be at one with Him and at one with his Body, the Church. The visible symbol of that union is Holy Communion, or as Paul calls it: "the Lord's Supper" (v. 20). When we eat the Lord's Supper together, we testify that we are *one body* in the Lord. Because this is such an important memorial, we must be careful of our attitudes and actions in it.

DISCUSS

Read **1 Corinthians 11:17-26** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **The Lord's Supper**.

DIG IN

In verses 18-22, what were the things the Corinthian Christians were doing to damage the union of the Body of Christ? Why was this so damaging?

In these verses we see that the Lord's Supper is meant to be...

1. **Restorative.** (vv. 18-22)

Even though the Corinthians were eating their "Agape Meal" in a hurtful, divided way, they had no choice but to come together and eat of "one bread and one cup" (see 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). In what ways do the physical actions of eating the bread and drinking the cup in the corporate worship setting remind us of our oneness in Christ?

2. **Commemorative.** (vv. 23-25)

In what ways does the Lord's Supper commemorate "the night Jesus was betrayed" (v. 23; see John 13:21-30)?

In what ways does the Lord's Supper remind us of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross?

3. **Repetitive.** (v. 26a)

What about verses 25 & 26 suggest that the Lord's Supper should be repetitive or ongoing? Why is that important?

4. **Missional.** (v. 26b)

In what ways do we "proclaim the Lord's death" during the Holy Communion service?

In what ways does verse 26 speak of the fact that Jesus is alive? Why is that an important part of the mission of the Church?

DO

In what ways will you put what you've learned into practice this week?