

The Lord's Supper, Part 2: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

Pastor Tim Allen

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

According to chapter 11, the Corinthian Christians were experiencing division that only got worse as they came together to eat their regular fellowship meals. Rich people were snubbing the poor, gathering into their own small cliques, and even getting drunk! They were despising "the church of God and humiliating those who had nothing." (v. 22). They carried this abuse into the Lord's Supper which is the opposite of what Jesus intended. Paul addresses the problem by calling them back to the true intention of Holy Communion and offering them the solution.

DISCUSS

Read **1 Corinthians 11:23-34** 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, part 2**.

DIG IN

The Problem: Self-Indulgence. (vv. 17-22)

In what ways were the Corinthian Christians being self-centered and engaging in self-indulgence? Why is that toxic to true fellowship and communion?

The Solution:

1. Self-Evaluation (self-examination) (vv. 23-32)

The Lord's Supper, as related by Paul in verses 23-25, is an opportunity to consider the crucifixion and his promised return. In what ways is this a helpful "tool" for self-examination?

Another way we can examine ourselves (v. 28) is to consider the consequences of our sinful actions. Paul warns the Corinthians of temporal judgment (God's judgment of our actions in this life) can come when we eat and drink without discerning the body.

In what ways should we "discern the body" (v. 29)?

Name some examples of temporal judgment you have experienced or known about.

In what ways does sin often lead to physical ailments (v. 30)?

Read Hebrews 12:5-6: In what ways is enduring divine discipline both difficult and encouraging?

2. Self-Sacrifice (vv. 33-34)

In what ways is waiting for one another (v. 33) an act of self-sacrifice, and a means to build the body of Christ?

DO

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