

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Ice Breaker: What were mealtimes like in your family growing up?

BACKGROUND: The Corinthians allowed some parts of their worship services to become times of selfishness and bickering. Paul gives specific practical instructions on how the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated.

THE BIG PICTURE: We must come into God's presence focused on Him, united together in faith — all in remembrance of Him, all for His glory!

DIGGING DEEPER:

DIVISIONS AGAIN

1 Corinthians 11:17-19

- Why does Paul say he can't commend the Corinthians? Why are their meeting times doing more harm than good? What is the issue Paul is confronting? How do you think the church responded to these words? How would you respond to this type of pastoral rebuke?
- If possible, what was the positive benefits from these divisions?

1 Corinthians 11:20-22

- The Corinth Christians came from a culture where the pagans would commonly have these wild and drunken banquets in honor of pagan gods. It was also expected that the more affluent would receive better/more food than the poor. How did their culture affect their meals together? What can we learn from this passage that we can put into practice during the River's brunch time?² How can we assure our actions influence others around us positively so they see Jesus? What concrete steps can we take this week that will demonstrate that we are putting others before ourselves?
- How were the divisions in the Corinthian church affecting the way they celebrated the Lord's Supper? What problems were being created?

THE HEART OF COMMUNION 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

- Why do you think Paul repeated the account of the Lord's Supper here? What is the purpose of celebrating communion together? What does "remembrance" mean to you? What are Christians proclaiming when they celebrate the Lord's Supper together? What helps you to be more mindful of this, so that the Lord's Supper does not become just a meaningless ritual?
- The Last Supper found in the gospels was actually a Passover meal — where they celebrated Israel's deliverance from Egypt to the Promised Land. Breaking of bread and drinking wine were important parts of the Passover celebration. How did Jesus use these important reminders of Israel's deliverance and added them to the meanings connected with His own death on the cross? What is the significance of unleavened bread and yeast? How is unleavened bread a symbol of Christ? What is the ultimate significance of the bread and wine?
- What happens when we participate in the Lord's Supper? What do we proclaim? Is that surprising to you? Why is it significant?
- We are called to go from simply knowing what Jesus did to living in the reality of what He did and letting it transform us. How has HE transformed you?

² take smaller portions, don't sit in cliques, welcome new people, don't rush out to be first in line...

APPROACH COMMUNION WITH A REPENTANT HEART 1 Corinthians 11:27-28

- Paul instructs the Corinthians to examine themselves prior to partaking of the Lord's Supper. How is this done? What does Paul mean by eating and drinking in an unworthy manner? How can this be misinterpreted?
- How does a repentant heart drive us to our Savior?
- Why do you think we struggle so much to believe our approval **is** found in trusting Jesus and **not** in being good enough? Why is that such a battle for so many Christians?

THE CONSEQUENCES OF AN UNREPENTANT HEART 1 Corinthians 11:29-32

- Why would eating and drinking "without recognizing the body of the Lord" be so dangerous? What are the consequences of an unrepentant heart?

COME TOGETHER SELF-LESSLY AND IN UNITY 1 Corinthians 11:33-34

- How can we eat and drink the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner?
- When we meet together and when we take communion together, are we doing this for the glory of God and seeking to reflect Him?

CONCLUSION

- Why is it important to observe the Lord's Supper? What does Communion mean to you?
- How can you prepare yourself to receive the Lord's Supper? What do you need to do better in order to celebrate Communion in the most meaningful way? Perhaps...reconcile with others? remember what the Lord's Supper proclaims? choose to have a repentant heart?
- What has this chapter taught you about worship that is honoring/dishonoring to God? How do you need to change your pattern of worship?