

Recap the Sermon

1. What impacted you most from the message?

Open Up

2. Discuss a time when you were young and you were disciplined for foolishness.

Digging In

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

Key Point: In the early church, the Lord's Supper was preceded by a feast similar to our present-day potluck dinners. The purpose was for the church to come together and fellowship, like we do in our small groups; however, the focus was still on the Lord's Supper.

3. How would you describe the tone of Paul's words to the Corinthians concerning the Lord's Supper?
4. How does Paul view the "social snobbery" that took place there? What types of excess behaviors were the Corinthians displaying during this holy time? (vs. 21-22)
5. Paul's examination of the gluttony and drunkenness highlights the fact that the church at Corinth had shifted their focus. Did their excessive fellowship bring glory and honor to God?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

6. What do you think eating the bread or taking the cup in an "unworthy" manner means? (v. 27) Why is it important to examine yourself prior to partaking in the Lord's Supper? What does this examination look like to you? If you partake in an unworthy manner or skip the self-examination, what does Paul call it? (v. 27)

Life Application

7. Read Acts 2:46. From this passage, describe the hearts of the new testament church. From the passage in Corinthians, is Paul trying to discourage the fellowship of the Corinthians or refine it? In our own small groups, how do we keep our focus on Christ?
8. Do modern-day believers display similar excesses to that of the church at Corinth? It's easy to see how the Corinthians got caught up in the fellowship and lost their focus. How can you balance fellowship and communion so that your focus will always be on Christ?

Wrap Up

According to the New Living Translation in 1 Corinthians 11:20 Paul states, "It is not the Lord's Supper you are concerned about when you come together." The church at Corinth had shifted their focus from communion with God to fellowship with man. The Lord's Supper is to be a time of reverence and humility. James 4:17 says, "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." Knowledge can be a dangerous thing and we will be held accountable for what we claim to know. What do you know?