

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **The Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-34)**

Date: **February 12, 2017**

The Lord's Supper is one of Christ's greatest gifts to his bride. It is a time when believers gather together in unity to remember and proclaim the death of Christ until He comes. It is to be preceded by careful self-examination and partaken of with reverence and humility. All that to say, the Lord's Supper must not be taken flippantly or lightly. The situation in the Corinthian church was so dysfunctional that when they gathered to partake of the Lord's Supper together Paul argued, "It is not the Lord's supper that you eat." The Corinthians did not come together in unity but in division. They ate the bread and drank the cup in an unworthy manner. They dishonoured the Lord's table. As a result, many Corinthians became ill and some even died! In this week's study, we will take a close look at the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. We will study what it is, why it is important, who can partake of it, and how it is to be observed. We will also be warned of the consequences of taking it in an unworthy manner.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. Where did the Lord's Supper originate from (see v. 23)? Why did it take place? Who is allowed to partake in the Lord's Supper? Who is forbidden from taking the Lord's Supper?
 - b. What elements are involved in the Lord's Supper? What do they represent?
 - c. In verse 24, Paul writes, "This is my body which is for you." What does this mean? What does this not mean?
 - d. Why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper? What does the Lord's Supper proclaim (v. 26)?
 - e. Paul rebukes the Corinthians for partaking in the Lord's Supper "in an unworthy manner," (v. 27). How were they doing this?
 - f. How can you properly prepare yourself for a communion service? What does self-examination entail?

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- g. What does it mean to be “guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord,” (v. 27)?
- h. In verse 29, Paul writes, “For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself.” What does he mean by this?
- i. According to verse 30, what consequences did the Corinthians experience for dishonoring the Lord’s Supper? What does this teach us about the severity of sin? What does this reveal about God’s attitude toward the Lord’s Supper?
- j. In verses 33-34, Paul emphasizes the importance of selflessness at the Lord’s Table. What are some ways that you can be selfless toward others in the body of Christ?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What are the most important things that we ought to remember about the proper observance of the Lord’s Supper? How does the Lord’s Supper contribute to the unity of the church?
3. Why is a spirit of reverence important when we partake of the Lord’s Supper together? How can we ensure that we honour God when we partake of the Lord’s Supper?
4. The Lord’s Supper is a regular reminder of the death of Christ. Why is it important that we regularly remember and delight in the gospel?
5. In verse 33, Paul emphasizes the importance of selflessness in the body of Christ. What are some ways that you can put others ahead of yourself this week in your home? In your marriage? In your church?