

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **The Lord's Supper Was Not (1 Corinthians 11:20-22)**

Date: **February 5, 2017**

In last's weeks study, we were reminded of the factions that had formed within the Corinthian church. The church was divided. As a result, when they gathered together as a church, it was not for the better but for the worse. In this week's text, we will learn that the church in Corinth was using the Lord's Supper to differentiate between the rich and the poor. Some Corinthians went hungry while others got drunk as they partook of the Lord's Supper together. The situation was so dysfunctional and unbiblical that Paul was able to say, "It is not the Lord's supper that you eat." As we study 1 Corinthians 10:20-22, we will continue to look at the dangers of division and the importance of unity in the church. We must do all that we can to protect ourselves from factions and division. When we come together as a church, especially at the Lord's table, we must do so in love and in unity.

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

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 11:20-22 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. What is specifically going on in verses 20-21? What are the different ways in which the church in Corinth is experiencing division?
 - b. How is it that some are going hungry and some are getting drunk at the Lord's Supper (v. 21)?
 - c. In verse 21, Paul writes, "It is not the Lord's Supper that you eat." Why does he say this?
 - d. Paul sees the actions of the Corinthians as a denial of the Lord's Supper (v. 20). How is this situation a denial of the Lord's Supper?
 - e. How can we protect ourselves against factions in our church? How is our small groups ministry designed to protect against division?
 - f. In verse 22, Paul contends that their division despises the church of God. What is the significance of the two words "of God" in that statement from verse 22?

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- g. What are some ways Scripture refers to the church? Why is it irreverent and sinful to talk poorly about the church?
- h. How can you apply this passage to people in that church that you have a hard time getting along with?
- i. Paul wants to commend the Corinthians but is not able to (see v. 22b) because of how dysfunctional they are. How can we ensure that we are commendable in the way we treat others in the church? How can we ensure that we are commendable in the way that we view the church?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. When the Corinthians came together for the Lord's Supper, their division was clearly seen. What other evidences of division have you have seen in churches in the past? If you saw a seed of division at Harvest, how would you try to resolve the situation?
3. Why is our small groups ministry an integral part of the unity that we experience in the church? How is our small group's ministry designed to protect against division in the church?
4. How would you rate our church on unity? How would you rate our small group on unity? What can we do to help preserve and grow the unity in our church and in our small group?
5. How can we nurture love for people in our church that we find difficult to get along with?
6. The church is "the church of God," (v. 22). When we talk about the church with others, how can we ensure that we do so with love and reverence?