

Complete these questions *BEFORE* your Growth Group meets and then use your answers in discussion.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

the way of fellowship

TO PONDER:

What do you find the hardest & the best thing about being part of a church family?

Read 1 Corinthians 11.17-22

Note: In these verses, it's helpful not to too quickly impose what we call the Lord's Supper onto what Paul is referring to. The Corinthians were sharing much more of a meal.

What appears to be the situation that Paul is critiquing?

Why is it a problem?

What is the deeper problem within the Corinthian church that Paul is addressing? (It would be helpful to reflect back on what we've discovered about the Corinthian church from the previous 10 chapters)

Although our church here & now might not share the exact same situation as the Corinthians back there & then, how might we share the same problems?

Read 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

The familiarity of these words can rob them of impact. Read them again carefully, as if for the first time.

Why can we learn of the Lord Jesus and his service of us as we recall that supper he shared with his disciples?

What does v26 mean?

How does this meal of Jesus compare to the meal the Corinthians were "sharing"?

How should this meal of Jesus shape the way that we relate to one another within our church?

Read 1 Corinthians 11.27-34

These verses have been understood & applied unhelpfully in churches when sharing Communion. Its important to be guided by context.

What do you think the apostle means by "unworthy manner" in v27? (Keep in mind vv17-22)

What might it mean for someone to examine themselves before they eat or drink (v28)?

In v29, the apostle gives the instruction to "discern the body". What body does he mean? How should we discern it? (You might like to glance ahead to 12:27 while also keeping in mind vv17-22 :))

What was happening in the Corinthian church that demonstrated the seriousness of the issues the apostle was raising? How do you respond to this?

What lessons should you take from this passage about relating to others within our church family? Be specific and practical.

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\* Pray together in response to this Word of God for us.