

Message by John Johnson  
January 12-13, 2008  
We Are Invited To Experience God's Intimacy  
1 Corinthians 11:17-34

The passage is about a common rite in the church that is sometimes taken for granted – communion. Paul addresses the importance of not entering this type of worship lightly. In fact, he says it is a matter of life and death (vss. 30-31).

Questions for Discussion:

1. Are there any specifics you recall from the message that were interesting or challenging to you?
2. Read the passage as a group. What are the main ideas Paul is presenting? What were the issues about how the Corinthians were handling the Lord's supper?
3. Are any of the errors about communion by the Corinthians also problematic areas to us today?
4. What are some of the roots of their divisions that Paul mentions in verse 18?
5. Paul also discusses the Lord's Supper in the previous chapter. Read 10:16-17. What do you think Paul means when he says we "participate" in the blood and body of Christ when we take communion?

(Pastor John said in his message this is more than remembrance. It is mysterious and difficult to define. While not suggesting Catholic or Lutheran doctrine that the elements actually become Christ, the language suggests the table bears the presence of Christ in a unique and real way.)

6. What does the context of this passage indicate Paul means when he says to examine ourselves so as to not eat the bread or drink from the cup in an unworthy manner? (vss. 27-32)

(the context is about unity, vs. 22, and about recognizing we participate somehow in the presence of Christ, vss. 27-29.)

7. Given that communion in the early church flowed out of meals, do you think we should be doing the same? Is this something your life group could ever do? (That is share a meal together, then share the communion elements together.)