

## **Bible Study Group Notes**

### 1 Corinthians 11.17-34

#### **THE BIG PICTURE**

This week we come to one of the most important passages in the Bible on the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion. At Corinth, the church was gathering for Communion, but instead of expressing unity, love, and dependence on Christ, their behaviour was exposing selfishness, division, and disregard for one another. Paul's concern is not simply that they understand the meal correctly, but that they receive it rightly. At the Lord's Supper, Christ gathers his people to remember and proclaim his death, to receive his grace by faith, and to live together as one body before him.

#### **INVESTIGATE**

*Read 1 Corinthians 11.17-34.*

1. Why does Paul say their gatherings are "not for the better but for the worse" (11.17)?
2. What was happening when the Corinthians came together (11.18-22)?
3. Why was their behaviour such a serious contradiction of the Lord's Supper?
4. What does Jesus say about the bread and the cup in 11.23-25?
5. According to 11.26, what are Christians doing whenever they share Communion?
6. What warning does Paul give about eating and drinking "in an unworthy manner" (11.27-29)?
7. What does it mean to examine ourselves before receiving Communion?
8. How does Paul's conclusion in 11.33-34 call the church back to love and unity?

## **REFLECT & APPLY**

9. When we receive Communion together, are you more likely to experience it as a shared family meal of Christ's people, or as a private moment between you and God?
  
10. What helps you remember Christ's death clearly as you come to the table? What tends to distract you?
  
11. How could you make better use of the confession, absolution, and words of institution as preparation for receiving?
  
12. Are there ways we might come to Communion casually – simply out of habit, because others are going forward, or without much thought?
  
13. Are there ways we might wrongly stay away – because we feel weak, ashamed, or not “good enough,” rather than coming as sinners trusting Christ?
  
14. Before receiving Communion, is there someone you need to forgive, seek reconciliation with, or stop despising in your heart?
  
15. How might Communion shape the way we treat one another after the service – especially those who are lonely, newer, poorer, struggling, or easily overlooked?
  
16. What would it look like to receive Communion with both reverence and joy?

## **PRAY**

- Thank God for the Lord Jesus Christ, whose body was given and whose blood was shed for us.
- Pray that we would not come casually or proudly, but honestly, repentantly, and with faith.
- Ask God to strengthen our unity as a church, deepen our love for Christ, and help us proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*NB The Church Prayer Pointers for this month are available in church or on the WhatsApp group.*