

COMMUNION UNION

TODAY'S TEXT: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

TODAY'S THEME: Today is Communion Sunday. What is the Lord's Supper really about and why did Paul have to correct its abuse in the Corinthian church?

I. _____ IN THE CHURCH (v.17-22)

A. Sociological Disunity

- > The wealthy vs. the poor
 - Those with less were being abused

- > Divisions during the Lord's Supper _____ the true disciples of Jesus

B. Communion Cures _____

- > Paul's response was "shame on you, church!"
- > Communion = union, unity, community, togetherness
 - Attitude like Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:1-5)

II. THE LORD'S SUPPER (v.23-26)

A. The Corinthians Had Lost The _____

- > Many had forgotten the very reason for sharing the Lord's Supper together
 - Paul reminds them with Jesus' own words (Luke 22:17-20)

- > The actions of the wealthy had not been in step with the spirit of the celebration

B. Communion Is Our _____ Reminder

- > What has Jesus Christ's death and resurrection accomplished for us?

• Expiation – removal of our sin and _____
(John 1:29; Hebrews 9:26)

• Propitiation – removal of God's _____ that we justly deserved
(Romans 3:25-26)

• Reconciliation – removal of our _____ from God
(Romans 5:10-11)

• Redemption – deliverance from our _____ by a paid ransom

- Curse of the law (Galatians 3:13-14)
- Guilt of sin (Romans 3:23-24)
- Power of sin (1 Corinthians 15:56-57)

• Defeat of the powers of _____
(Colossians 2:15)

• He died as our _____
(Romans 5:8; Galatians 2:20; Isaiah 53:5-6)

▶ This is very humbling, and Communion is our reminder!

III. _____ IN THE CHURCH (v.27-34)

A. We Are The Body Of Christ

- > Paul warns of eating and drinking in an _____ manner
 - Unloving, self-centered, insensitive

- > Not recognizing that the Church is the Body of Christ

B. Communion Clarifies Our _____

- > Communion is not simply about _____ introspection
 - We need to receive and welcome one another

- > This is the Lord's Supper, not ours

CONCLUSION: Communion together with the Body of Christ at Kingsway!

LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:

OPEN: During your teen years, what was dinner time like: Who sat where? Who was in charge? Who ate anything and everything? Who was a very picky eater?

Have some members share about first taking communion as a kid.
> Has your understanding about it changed over time? How so?

READ 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

• The Corinthian church was abusing the Lord's Supper celebration by being selfish and by excluding others.

> Had you been there, what would you have seen, heard and felt as the Corinthians observed the Lord's Supper?

> How was the celebration being distorted?
(See also 1 Cor. 10:17)

READ 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

> Why does Paul repeat the original account of the Lord's Supper in v. 23-25 (as taken from Luke 22:19-20)?

> What do you think Paul means by:

- Eating and drinking in "an unworthy manner"? (v. 27)
- "Not recognizing the body of the Lord"? (v. 29)
- Self-examination? (v. 28)
- Judging oneself? (v. 31)
 - What is the alternative to this self-evaluation? (v. 32, 34)

> In what ways do we cause divisions in the church family today?

> What are some practical steps that you can take to build up the church body of believers? Can your group agree to implement one of them this month?

PRAY for your group to grow in unity and love, and to also make the overall Kingsway Church Body a focus of their communion times with Christ.