

**The Lord's Supper**  
**Life Group Topic #17**  
**May 3, 2009**

**WELCOME:** (15 minutes)

What is one of your favorite meals that you enjoy sharing with family or friends?

**WORSHIP:** (15 minutes)

Use whatever means possible to turn the group's attention to the wonder and majesty of our God- including music, prayer, meditation on the Psalms, and other art forms.

**WORD APPLICATION:** (45 minutes)

Briefly read or paraphrase the following sermon summary before moving to the heart of this section: the discussion around the application questions.

In Mark 14, Jesus called his 12 disciples together to celebrate the Passover. He instructed them to find a man in the city and ask, "Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" (Mark 14:14).

In those days the houses frequently had upper rooms where they would entertain guests and hold family meetings. The kitchen and living quarters were downstairs, but the upper room was larger and could hold more people. That evening Jesus began with the customary Passover meal, recalling how the blood of the lamb in Egypt saved Israel from certain death. But then Jesus used the typology to point the disciples to his own death, and the new covenant for all who placed their faith in Him. The early church followed the same pattern, by meeting in homes to celebrate a common meal together along with the Lord's Supper.

Acts 2:46 reads "They worshipped together at the temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper and shared their meals with great joy and generosity. (NLT)

In I Cor. 11:17-34 Paul speaks to how little the person and work of Jesus had really percolated into the lives of the Corinthians believers. He holds up a mirror for them to see not only what they are but what they should be. The early church gathered weekly to celebrate communion along with a complete meal...a reproduction of Jesus last meal with his disciples. Acts 2 reveals for us that they shared things in common so those who were wealthy could supply the food for the meal and the poor could come and be fed. At the conclusion of the meal they could celebrate communion together. The setting for this would easily fit the context of our Life Groups...meeting in homes, sharing a meal together and remembering the Lord Jesus death. We are encouraging cell groups to consider celebrating communion together, and are particularly looking to possibly make this a focus in the month of September.

But let's look again at the text in I Cor. 11. Somehow the person and work of Jesus got lost in the form of their Christianity. In verses 17-19 he shows them that they were approaching communion with the wrong spirit. They were dividing up into destructive divisions and cliques yet they were meeting together...denying by their attitudes and actions the joint participation that the communion service is symbolic of. As believers, they had a common bond in Christ...a common relationship with Him, enjoying common blessings from Him. Yet they had become blind to it!. It had happened so gradually that they didn't even notice their cliques. The thought of being a body with each part dependent and connected to the other had been lost and people ate and drank purely for personal satisfaction. Fragmented, selfish, uncaring, indifferent to human needs, the church was hurting the cause of Christ rather than helping it.

Paul notes the divisions that are present in the Corinthians church...

- **How does I Corinthians 12:12-27 relate to this challenge of schisms or divisions?**
- **How important is unity in God's plans?  
...John 17:11, 20-23**
- **Have you experienced the results of a lack of unity?**
- **How would unity be displayed in your Life Group?**

If your Life Group were to celebrate communion together and use the love feast or agape model described in I Corinthians 11, how would the components come together?

- **A meal together**
- **Each person participating in providing for the meal but not in equal proportions**
- **Waiting for and caring for each other**
- **Intentionally wanting to reflect that we are a part of one body**
- **In this smaller context, what could be a part of the actual sharing the bread and cup with each other?**
- **In keeping with the whole body being involved, how could each person be a part of the actual communion time?**
- **How would it end?**

**WITNESS:** (15 minutes)

**This section is a vision-casting time designed to get the group strategizing and making concrete plans towards reaching outward to a lost world. Relational outreach always has the goal of ultimately enfolded those we reach into the Life Group.**