



Week of April 7
1 Corinthians 11:17-34¹

Overview

Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses needs and problems specific to that local church. But for a 2000-year-old letter, many of the topics will ring true to us today as well. Cultural diversity and religious pluralism were obvious in 1st Century Corinth and are also rampant in our 21st century world. Paul cares deeply about both right living and right thinking for Christians, and so should we. In the last half of the letter, Paul sets some boundaries for how we behave in the body of Christ, emphasizing actions which build up the church and further the gospel. Keeping these themes in mind will help you understand the "why" behind Paul's guidance and admonitions to the Corinthian Christians.

Group Objectives

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purposes of community groups.

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members...how can you "build one another up" this week?
- Pray for God's call to reach your "one more."

DNA statement(s) tie-in

- ***We are On Mission to Reach One More.*** Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to **reach one more** – one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.
- ***We do Life Together.*** "Community" is our middle name. Every person of every generation is wanted, needed, and known. And there's always room for one more.

Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
- Tell us about the best or worst dinner party you have attended. What made it either good or bad?

Listening to God

- Where did you experience God last week?
- How were you able to join God on mission?

¹ This discussion guide was written by Rachel Vaughn and edited by Dawn Gentry. For additional content, see the [sermon online](#) and the reading plan [found here](#).

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

For the early church, the "Lord's Supper" was very different from modern Communion practices. Rather than a formal portion of a worship service, it was common for believers to share a meal when they gathered. Paul's primary concern for the Corinthians is a lack of consideration for each other. Watch for his use of sarcasm and rhetorical questions as he tries to help the Corinthians understand the true purpose of communing together as the body of Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

- What stood out to you from these verses as we read them?
- What is the significance of sharing a meal together? Why is Paul so concerned with the Corinthians' hospitality towards each other?
- We often read v. 23-26 when we share Communion. How do these verses strike you differently when read in context?
- Based on the context, what does Paul mean by eating the bread or drinking the cup of the Lord "in an unworthy manner"?
- How do you react to Paul's description of God's discipline (v. 30-31)? How can we correctly understand this verse in light of its context and the entirety of scripture (i.e., Matt. 4:23, John 5:24, Heb. 12:11)?

Reach One More Practice

- This week encourage one another with stories of how your "one more" conversations are bearing fruit. What progress has been made in these relationships since Easter?
- How can you share a meal with your one more this week?

Prayer Prompts

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompts.
 - *Lord, thank you for the church. Give us eyes to see each other with the same compassion and grace you have bestowed on us, and may we be known as people who love one another. Amen.*

For further study

- For more about sharing a meal as a spiritual practice, consider these books:
 - [*Bread and Wine: A Love Letter to Life Around the Table with Recipes*](#), by Shauna Niequist (Zondervan, 2020).
 - [*We Will Feast: Rethinking Dinner, Worship, and the Community of God*](#), by Kendall Vanderslice (Eerdmans, 2019).
- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org.
- For practical ideas you can implement as you reach one more, see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzdVE7HNsqM-FEzli5Etuzj379W7kUsxO>
- Bible Project Videos: Guide to 1st Corinthians: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/>
- Right Now Media Series – "Bible Backroads" – great background on Corinth, suitable for families: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/806863>
- Ben Witherington, *A Week in the Life of Corinth*
- NT Wright, *1 Corinthians* (N. T. Wright *For Everyone* commentary series)
- Anthony Thiselton, *1 Corinthians: A Shorter Exegetical and Pastoral Commentary*

Some copies of these books may be available at the CCC resource booth to purchase on-site.