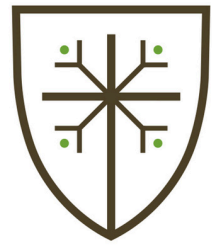


Lacking Nothing

A Sermon Series on 1 Corinthians

SERMON NOTES



July 13, 2025

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Receiving One Another"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Isaiah 43:1-3

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Luke 18:15-17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can a life lived in close community with other Christians help guard against pride? On the flip-side, how can it sometimes increase the "inner circle" thinking Paul warns against?
2. How does the hope we have in Christ, the knowledge that death is defeated, help us in the face of devastating loss?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This Sunday, our sermon series on 1 Corinthians led us to Paul's words on the Lord's Supper. Tim's sermon focused on how these words can help us make sense of the grief and confusion we are feeling right now after the bewildering disaster of the July Fourth floods.

The Real Problem

This passage in Corinthians is the most elaborate description of the Lord's Supper in all of scripture. From Paul, we learn that the church there is having a problem with the Supper, not a theological problem but rather a problem in their practice that revealed a deeper issue in their community. At this time, the Lord's Supper was a part of a full meal. The Corinthians were gorging themselves on rich food and wine, reciting Jesus' words, and then calling it communion. They were eating a Roman-style meal in which guests were separated by class. But according to Paul, those in the upper classes were consuming everything and not making any provision for the poor and the hungry. Everyone was graded and the lower grades were receiving nothing.

The Biggest Concern

For Paul, the biggest concern regarding the Lord's Supper in the Corinthian church was that those in the "inner circle" were judging others. It was pride driving their practice instead of God's presence. Pride is an inordinate self-focus. Our ego becomes so distended in our own eyes that we can't see anything else. Tim gave three criteria for helping us to see pride in our own hearts: criticism, competition, and condescension. When pride receives the least touch of criticism, it pops and we explode. If anyone else wins, the pride-filled person can't celebrate with them; and when they win, they immediately look down on everyone else.

The Application

Christians in the Corinthian church were partaking of communion and then intentionally causing problems, seeking to tear apart the body, offending Jesus by how they treated other Christians. Paul exhorts them to receive one another as though the other matters to God. Instead of having "graded friends" they should receive all as members of God's family.

The Lord's Supper was instituted at Passover, a feast commemorating God's act of ending his people's slavery in Egypt. This Passover act was fulfilled in Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross. We are no longer slaves to sin and pride.

Because of the sacrifice of God's own Son, death no longer has the last word. Jesus was the last and ultimate Passover lamb in order that all God's people might know life beyond death.