

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"A MEAL TO REMEMBER" | 1 COR 11:17-34 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What was your first time taking communion like?

"Self-Seeking Supper" 1 Corinthians 11: 17-22

The Corinthians had divisions between social classes and it showed with the rich eating and drinking so much the poor workers didn't get any of the Lord's Supper. **What are other ways people can be self-seeking in church services today? How should churches respond to these issues?**

"The Lord's Supper" 1 Corinthians 11: 23-34

The purpose of the Lord's Supper is to remember Jesus' death on the cross and was commanded by Jesus. **How does knowing this was a command of Jesus impact your view of communion? Why is remembering Jesus' death important to do regularly?**

Paul warns Corinthians that participating in the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner" leads to consequences. **What does taking communion in an unworthy manner look like? What does taking communion in a worthy manner look like?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

The same night Jesus gave the command to remember his sacrifice with bread and wine was also the same night he prayed that his followers would be One, or unified. Loving God should lead to loving others and breaking down division as a way of honoring Jesus' sacrifice as symbolized with communion. **Have you struggled with being selfish and ignoring or excluding others lately? What is a way you can seek show unity with other believers? Ask Jesus for forgiveness for the ways you have not honored His sacrifice and to give you strength to love others in a worthy manner.**

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

4-21-24

A Meal To Remember

I. **Announce:** VBS Jasmine last

- A. **Slide1 Baby Dedication**(10am): *Elizabeth Esther Ghironzi. Giani & Ashton.*(I dedicated Giani)
1. Eliz = *My God has sworn or God of oath.* 1st in NT to exp a miracle.
- B. **Slide2 Missions Prayer:** Come join us in the Agape Room next Sun night, April 28th, from 6:30-7:30pm. *We're gathering to pray for our awesome **field workers** around the world. **Let's lift them up together & ask for God's blessings & protection.***
- C. **Slide3 REACH:** has another opportunity for service this month. On Sun, April 28th from 4:30-8:30pm, they will be heading down to the *Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles* to serve dinner to those in need. **To sign up and be a part of the REACH team,** Please visit our *Calvary App*/find REACH under ministries/sign up - Or notifications. (or on website). **Your willingness to serve will truly make a difference in the lives of those we will be reaching out to!**
- D. **Slide4 Also:**[*silent auction* brought in lil over \$4000 to BoF TY. *TY Niki McMullen*] another opp comin
1. I have **2** exciting campus remodel updates for next Sun, April 28th.
 2. **Spanish Ministry:** *As we continue to **remodel different areas, we are able to make changes that benefit our various ministries.*** For many years we lacked a space large enough for our *CM Spanish Ministry* to have both a Sun and Wed night service on this campus, so they have been meeting at our **School campus.** **I am excited to announce** that with the completion of the **Courtyard** in front of the Learning Center, we have space for our Spanish Ministry to join us on this campus each Sunday. **Starting next Sun,** our Spanish Ministry will be using the Learning Center during our 12pm service. **Please join me in welcoming them this next Sunday.**
 3. **We also will begin construction on the front of the church and the sanctuary foyer this next week,** so when you arrive next Sunday we will have a temporary **plywood wall** and **new paths** to enter and exit both the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. While we will be getting **more**

steps in for the next few months, it will be all be worth it when our 1990s building gets a **facelift** and some much needed **repairs**.

E. **Slide5 Wed Night Refresh:** we just finished our series on *Winning the War in your Mind*. This Wed night, we will have *Testimony Time!* - We will be having open-mic for anyone wanting to share *a short story or a passage*, on **how God has helped you work through winning the war in your mind, defeating your negative thoughts, calming your anxious mind**.

II. **Slide6 Intro: A Meal To Remember**

A. **A: What are terms the church uses for the Lord's Supper?** Communion (not used in Scripture/is in NKJV/koinonia-fellowship). Eucharist (thanks vs.2:42). Lord's Supper (biblical term). Love Feasts (Jude 12 emphasizing the meal). Breaking of Bread (Acts 2:42).

B. **History:** late 1st century, early 2nd century, the Lord's Supper gradually *changed from a communal meal*, to a ritual involving just *bread and wine*.

1. **Remember**, it came from **Jesus** redirecting the prescribed *Passover Meal*.

a) At the 1st **passover** in Egypt an angel of death literally **passed-over** a house that had the blood of a lamb marked on it. [**but** for the 1st born to **live**, *the lamb* had to die].

2. **But we can have a meal w/it:** in our homes. In Community Group's.

C. Apparently, the Cor church was divided on *socioeconomic grounds*. With the **wealthier** members abusing their **position** and **status** by **inhibiting & disregarding fellowship** with the **poorer** members of the church. Paul hinted to this in 10:17.

1. The abuse of the Lord's Supper within the Corinthian church was causing them to **lose sight of its purpose:** i.e. **fellowship** between believers and **identification with Christ and His sacrifice**.

2. **Think unity**, as *Communion* is a compound word common-union/unity. (a **unity** with *the Lord & each other*; also w/past/pre/future)

D. **Outline: Self-Seeking Supper vs. The Lord's Supper.**

- E. Let's step into our study this morning realizing: **Jesus** *established, loves, and is married to*, **His** church. We are greatly loved! **And** just like this 1st century Church plant in Corinth, **so** **CM** will have its *issues, divisions, factions, things we're not doing perfectly right*, areas where we need to be **both** encouraged and corrected in.
- F. **Prayer**: *as the early church* devoted themselves to the *apostles teaching* **and** the *fellowship*, **to** the *breaking of bread* **and** the *prayers*.

III. Slide7 **SELF-SEEKING SUPPER (17-22)** *Read*

- A. (17) **Come together** - 5 x's (17,18,20,33,34) *Beatles. come together rt now, over me.*
1. Local believers should get together for the Lord's Supper.
 - a) Can we celebrate this alone, **sure**. Should we do it **together**, **YES!**
 2. **Instead of coming together** they were **coming apart**.
- B. **Slide8** (18) **There are divisions/factions among you** - divisions between *social classes*. Chloe shared them w/Paul back in 1:11.
1. **The early church usually** met in **wealthy people houses** (larger).¹
 2. **The early church usually** gathered for worship **and** a meal in their homes.
 3. The **less wealthy** believers worked long days, **and** typically arrived late.
 4. Apparently, the wealthy believers **did not wait for them**; instead, they ate w/o them, getting drunk **and** leaving no food for them.
- C. **There was no sharing or caring**. **Slide9** my recap in stick-figures.

IV. Slide10a **THE LORD'S SUPPER (23-34)** *Read*

- A. **Bread and wine** were **2 common items** that were used at practically every meal, **but** Jesus gave them *a wonderful new meaning*.
1. So from now on they would serve as **a memorial**/remembrance of **His death**.
 2. Here, Jesus **redirects** the details to **Himself** **and** to **His deliverance** of the world from sin.

¹ Faithlife Study Bible (1 Co 11:18). Lexham Press

- B. Slide10b It's *the Table of the Lord* (10:21) - it's **not** Calvary Chapel's table, **not** CM's table. **No**, Christ is **the host** and we are *invited* to **His table**.
1. And we come unworthily like *Mephibosheth*, who was lame in his feet and deserving of death (being Saul's grandson), **so we are spiritually lame & deserving of death**. Yet King David *invited him to eat bread at his table continually, like one of the king's sons*. (2Sam9)
 2. **The Lords table** is **not** a magical table, **or** a superstitious table, **but a testimonial table**. [it's not a *magical* experience, **but** a *spiritual* one]
- C. Slide11 (24,25) This was a command, **Do This** (2x's) - **Not**: *quote this, think this, feel this*. **But do this!** Look, touch, & taste His death, so we'll really remember. Jesus pulls in more of our senses so we'd retain it better.
- D. Slide12 (24,25) **Remember is Key**. (not just *think about a past event*)
1. To call the one being *remembered* into **the fullness of the conscious mind**. Not just *think about* Jesus, **but to live in the reality of Jesus**.
 2. **But Jesus** we won't forget You! (Uh, they did in 2 city blocks, upper rm to Geth) **And we** forget Him each time we *sin*.
- E. Slide13 (26) **proclaim the Lord's death until he comes** - *until* is a temporary table. (not in heavn)
1. It serves as a **backward** look to **the cross**. It serves as an **inward** look to **the conscience**. It serves as a **forward** look to **the crown**.
- F. Slide14 (27) **In an unworthy manner** - don't foster any *attitudes* that are creating **division** in the church. (vs.30 *weak, ill, died*). nvnv
1. The heart of God is good as **He makes deep cuts** in His church.
 2. This also shows that *there's more going on than* just mere **symbolism**.
 3. We believe that **the presence of God** is at work in these elements of **bread and wine**, in really significant and mysterious ways.
 4. Though we are *unworthy*, we can partake in a worthy manner ... **How?**
 [1] Have a mind that understands the supper [2] Have a soul free from sin
 [3] Have a heart filled w/love for Christ & his people. [4] Have a will in obedience to His Word.

G. **Slide15** (28) **Examine yourself** - Wilson's commentary, "*The Eucharist is not a congratulatory banquet for the sinless, it is a sustaining meal for repentant sinners who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, but know they have fallen short.*"

1. So this call to self examination is **not aimed at** excluding those who have sinned, **it is aimed at** excluding those who do not care whether or not they have sinned. Communion is for *repentant* believers.

H. **Communion:** invite up team

1. **May communion** tear down **divisions/schisms/factions amongst us.**
2. **May our connections** be **rooted much deeper than** government politics, party politics, local politics, our opinions, our personal philosophies, our theories, our speculations on end times, our feelings, etc.
3. **May** we learn how to live in *Gospel Community*.
4. We may *forget Him*, **but He** will never forget you, child of God.

I. *The gifts of the Spirit* are really about **healing** the body of Christ. **But before** we can **help others**, our *first step* is us **going to Him together** for His healing, at His table.

1. **Then** the *fruit and overflow* of us being healed/made well, is us using our **spiritual gifts** **and** becoming conduits of that *healing loving work* in other's lives in *practical ways*.

J. ***Listen** to the words of this **new song** as you go to get the elements.

K. **Bread:** **On the night He was betrayed** - *the night a friend stuck a knife in His back. The night He was hated by someone He loved. The night everyone He loved, abandoned Him.* [He could've said the day before his crucifixion]

1. The night He experienced: *rejection, hatred, abuse, and betrayal.*
2. Our **divisions** begin *healing* when we **remember** (in the **bread/His body**) How Jesus **lived for us**, **and** what Jesus **did for us**, *on that night He was betrayed.*

3. **This is My body.** This **Bread** represented the **life** of Christ. Given that body in Bethlehem. He also said, *I am the bread of life*. He bore our sins, in that body. He **triumphed from the grave** bringing that body back to life. **Now lives in that glorified body.** This is My body.

4. **Communion Homework:** *examine yourself*. I want to tell you **how**. Put *your individual sins* in column 1 on your *Excel spreadsheet*. **And then write in the next column next to it, Paid in Full.**

a) Cheating: Paid In Full. Greed: Paid In Full. Abandoning Responsibilities: Paid In Full. Sexual immorality: Paid In Full. Criminal Behavior: Paid In Full. An abortion: Paid In Full. Selfishness: Paid In Full. _____: Paid In Full.

L. **Cup:** *My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood & righteousness; I would not trust the sweetest frame, but only lean on Jesus name.*

1. **For you** - don't miss this. Why did Jesus become a human being? **For You**. Why did Jesus learn obedience through what he suffered? **For You**. Why did he allow himself to fully experience every one of our temptations? **For You**. Why was He rejected, hated, lied about, abused, tortured, despised, humiliated, nailed to a cross, and experience the sting of death? **For You**.

a) *Maybe the most beautiful words in all of the bible ... For You!*

M. **END:** Hey everyone, don't forget about our **@Risk meeting** today at 3pm. **Rebirth Homes** will be there. **Also stop by and visit their FREEDOM Shop table right after service.** They are selling their survivor-made products, and all the proceeds go right back into *providing employment for survivors of HT*.

N. We have, **Looked Within:** Examined ourselves. **Looked Back:** Remembering what Jesus has done.

O. **Now, Look Around:** Celebrate your union with each other as a body.

1. **Look Outward:** Commit to proclaim Christ to the world.
2. **Look Forward:** Anticipate the fact that *Jesus Is Coming Again!*

P. Keywords: Lord's Supper, communion, remembrance.