

God's Beautiful Messy Church  
Week's Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34  
Discussion Guide: September 11, 2022

**CHECK UP:**

Memory Work Review: There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. - Galatians 3:28

**OPEN:**

- Scripture gives few detailed instructions as relates to taking communion, yet it has been a subject of theological debate for years. What has primarily formed your understanding of communion?

**READ and ASK: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34; Matthew 5:23-24**

- Why did Paul have no praise for the Corinthians?
  - o What is the clear problem?
- What clear truths about the Lord's Supper (aka communion) are given in this text?
  - o Name as many things as you can that we are "doing" when we take communion?
- What does it mean to take the Lord's supper in an unworthy manner? (what does the text say the Corinthians were doing?)
  - o If \_\_\_\_\_ (answer from above) is taking the Lord's supper in an unworthy manner, then what were they to "look for" when they were examining themselves?
  - o What could possibly be a punishment for taking the Lord's supper in an unworthy manner?
    - Is illness always a result of sin?
  - o Why should we be grateful for the Lord's discipline (aside from the fact that we should be grateful that we don't get the discipline we deserve)?
- Paul's challenge to examine ourselves seems to deal most closely with divisions and relationships with others in the church. How does that impact the way you think of examining yourself?
  - o How does Jesus teach something similar in Matthew 5?
- How would you teach a new believer what it means to take communion?

**APPLY:**

- The poor in Corinth weren't able to participate fully in the Lord's Supper. How can church's commit similar sins of discrimination today?
  - o How can we be careful not to fall into such traps?
  
- Practically, why is the Lord's supper important to you? What difference does it make?
  
- What is the best way to examine yourself?
  - o How would it be of benefit to examine yourself before you even show up in the church building?
  
- NEXT STEP: In light of this passage, is there a new discipline that you may need to put into place?

Memory Work:

Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. - 1 Corinthians 11:28

Next Week's Reading:

OPEN (Church in the Park September 18)