

That all of them may be ONE

ONENESS GUIDE #10

TOWARD ONENESS

November 14, 2010

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

DESTINED FOR UNITY...
WITH GOD

In Jesus Christ Our Lord

WITH EACH
OTHER

In The Church

WITH EACH
OTHER

In Our Family

Unity: Exhorted, Equipped & Enacted in Worship

*...that all of them may be one,
Father, just as you are in me and
I am in you. May they also be in
us so that the world may believe
that you have sent me.*

- Jesus (John 17:21)

1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34

The Lord's Supper

¹⁷ In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸ In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹ No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. ²⁰ When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹ for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. ²² Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper



1 Corinthians 11:17-34 - Unity: Exhorted, Equipped & Enacted in Worship

he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we

judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. ³² When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions.



Self Study in Oneness for Week Ten

YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH. - PSALM 119:105

Day **Look:** Read Exodus 12 & Luke 22:1-20

- 1 Ask:** 1. In the original Passover, what were God's people commanded to do? What was God going to do?
2. What was the purpose of the blood of the lambs around the door frames?
 3. Along with the immediate instructions for avoiding the plague on the firstborn, the Lord gave Moses and Aaron instructions regarding future celebrations as "a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants." What were these instructions? Why were they important? How would they help to unify God's people?

Meditate: "This month is to be for you the first month..." Think about the importance of the Passover in the history of God's people Israel--Their whole year, in every year to come, was to be organized around this event!--How significant is it, then, that Jesus called His "Last Supper" with His disciples "This Passover" (Luke 22:15)? How bold was it that Jesus presumed to replace the old Passover celebration with His own new "lasting ordinance," the old Passover lamb with His own "body and blood", and the remembrance of God's liberating miracle in Egypt with His own "do this in remembrance of Me"?

Pray: *Each day* - Imagine someone you know and love taking communion with you. How do you think Jesus sees them as they approach His table? Give thanks for this person and thank God for the unity we have through our obedience to His command to "do this in remembrance of Me." Now do the same imagining someone you know and don't like much.

Today - Thank Jesus that He is the Lamb of God who fully and finally takes away our sins, allows us to be "passed over" by God's angel of eternal death, and leads us into life eternal.

Day 1 **Look:** Read Exodus 12 & I Corinthians 5

- 2 Ask:** 1. In Paul's discussion of blatant immorality in the Church, he refers to the "old yeast" and "bread without yeast" of the Passover (see Exodus 12:15-20). How are sin and immorality like "yeast?" How do they affect unity among people?
2. How are "sincerity and truth" also like yeast? How do they affect unity among people?
3. Finally, Paul calls Jesus "our Passover Lamb." List the ways Jesus is like those lambs of the first Passover. Then list some ways He is different from them.

Meditate: How have you seen sin and immorality destroy unity among people? How do worship and especially celebrating the Lord's Supper together help us overcome sin and move toward oneness?

Pray: *Today* - Ask God to help you see the sin that needs to be "swept out of your house" & to give you the strength to do so.

Day 2 **Look:** Read Mark 14:12-26 & I Corinthians 11:17-34

- 3 Ask:** 1. What day was it, according to Mark, when Jesus celebrated His "Last Supper" with His disciples? (What Jewish Feast were they in the midst of? What was supposed to happen on that day?)
2. What did Jesus say to His disciples? How does the fact that He said these things as part of their Passover meal help us understand what His words meant?

Meditate: What significance do you see to the emphasis, in both Mark's Gospel account and Paul's later instructions to the Corinthian church, upon the betrayal of Jesus that night?

Pray: *Today* - Ask Jesus to forgive you for the ways you have betrayed Him during your life. Thank Him that knowing all about these things He chose to die for you anyway.

Day 3 **Look:** Read John 6:25-71 & I Corinthians 11:17-34

- 4 Ask:** 1. How many different kinds of "foods" and "breads" does Jesus mention in John 6:25-71?
2. What is the essential difference between Jesus, the "Bread of Life," and the miracle "manna" that fell from heaven and fed Moses and God's people in the wilderness?
3. How did people react to Jesus' claim that people had to "eat His flesh" and "drink His blood" in order to have life? How do Jesus' provocative words help people understand the grievousness of sin and the radical nature of following Him? How does such an understanding help us toward unity with one another?

Meditate: How do the things Jesus said in John 6, especially calling Himself "The Bread of Life," help us understand what our sharing in the Lord's Supper is all about?

Pray: *Today* - Think about the "Hard Things" Jesus has said that are troubling to you. Ask God to help you understand them and accept them and apply them to your life because He alone "has the words of eternal life."

Day 4 **Look:** Read I Corinthians 11:17-34

- 5 Ask:** 1. What is the context of Paul's famous words here? Are things going well in Corinth? Is the Church here well unified?
2. What two things does Paul suggest the Church proclaims in its Communion Celebrations?
3. How do we eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner? How do we guard against this?

Meditate: Think about the ways the Corinthian Church was fueling the fire of division among themselves? How have you seen Christians do the same thing today? How can we do better with and for each other and for our Lord?

Pray: *Today* - Ask God to help you to be His agent of healing, reconciliation, growth and unity among His people today.



Notes

Exodus 12 (The Passover) - Before God carried out the final plague against the Egyptians, the taking of the Firstborn from every household, He gave His people instructions through Moses and Aaron to sacrifice spotless lambs and place the blood over their door frames so that the Angel of Death would “pass over” them and their Firstborn sons would be spared. The people obeyed and what God called “a sign for you on the houses where you are” (Ex. 12:13) proved to be both effective for them at the time and symbolic of a more important time to come. It pointed to the miracle coming of Jesus the Messiah. He would be the “Firstborn” of God who would not be spared. He would be the Perfect Lamb of God whose sacrifice would bring about a “Passover” that would save God’s people from death not just for a moment in time but for all eternity. The Passover event was of such significance that God’s people Israel were called to reorganize their calendar with that month, “Nisan/Abib” (our March-April), as the new “first month of the year” (Ex. 12:2). This was in contrast to the typical Near-Eastern tradition of organizing the year according to agricultural realities and so beginning each year in the Fall when much harvesting was done. The agricultural reckoning continued to dominate the civil calendar when Israel became a nation, and today Judaism uses only the calendar that begins in the Fall.

The Lord’s Supper - When Jesus celebrated His “Last Supper” with His disciples, he intentionally and boldly took this most-holy of Israel’s celebrations and made it something new and different. He placed Himself at its center: “Do this in remembrance of Me.” Thus, He was clearly claiming that Israel’s history with Yahweh God was a preparation for something else, something better, something that would be a completion of what God had begun with Father Abraham and continued through Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and all the rest. And that something was Jesus Himself! The claim was astounding. And it left people with only two options: Either kill Jesus as the most diabolical blasphemer of all time or worship Him as God the Son! The religious leaders of Jesus’ day made their choice, and people have been making their own “Jesus choice” ever since. When we come to the Table of the Lord in our Communion Celebrations, we do so as an act of worship. And in this worship we find ourselves unified with all of Jesus’ followers in our simple obedience to His command to “take and eat” and to “drink from it, all of you.” Despite the myriad of doctrines and issues we may argue over, at the Communion Table we agree together that Jesus is in fact who He claimed to be... Fulfillment in the Flesh of all God’s promises to His people... the world’s One and Only Savior sent to seek and to save that which was lost... the Long-Awaited Messiah, the “Anointed One” of God... the Son of David whose throne and kingdom last forever... the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world... God the Son.

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God."

- C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Small Group Guide

Hearing About Us - 1. What were “big family meals” (Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.) like for you when you were young? Joyful? Disappointing? Tense? Relaxed? 2. What are “big church meals” like for you?

Heeding God’s Word - 1. What did you learn this week about the connection between Jesus’ Last Supper & the Jewish celebration of Passover? about Jesus as the “Bread of Life” & the miracle “manna” God provided in the wilderness? 2. What are we remembering when we celebrate the Lord’s Supper together? What are we proclaiming? How does this help keep us moving toward oneness? 3. What is something you are going to do differently because of something God has shown you in the last ten weeks? 4. As time permits share other insights you gained in your Oneness Bible Study this week.

Helping One Another in Prayer to God - This is our last Small Group meeting, what will be your next step to grow in Christ & to help others do the same? What decisions do you need to make? Share additional prayer requests & pray for one another.