

Life Group Guide 1 Cor 11:1–34 “When We Worship” For the Sermon Preached on Jan 15 and For Use in Life Groups through Jan 22

Icebreaker Questions

What is your worst haircut story? Was it your hair or the hair of someone else’s hair?

Read the Biblical Text: 1 Cor 11:1–34

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. The Consequences of Abuse in Worship (vv. 2-22, 27, 29-30)
 - a. Biblical order in the home and church suffers when worship is abused (vv. 2-16).
 - b. Fellowship is non-existent when worship is abused (vv. 17-18).
 - c. False Teaching is prevalent when worship is abused (v. 19).
 - d. Pride is prevalent when worship is abused (vv. 20-22).
 - e. A false sense of salvation occurs when worship is abused (vv. 27, 29).
 - f. The believer is in jeopardy of God’s discipline when worship is abused (v. 30).
- II. The Personal Preparation Required for Worship (vv. 23-26)
 - a. Remember your past when you come to worship (vv. 23-24).
 - b. Review your present condition when you come to worship (v. 25).
 - c. Reclaim your future promise of eternity with Christ (v. 26).
- III. The Attributes Required for Worship (vv. 28-34)
 - a. Self-examination is an attribute of worship (v. 28).
 - b. Self-judgment is an attribute of worship (vv. 31-32).
 - c. Unified worship is an attribute of worship (vv. 33-34).

Observations of the Biblical Text

1. What things does Paul say is the relationship between the Father and the Son in v. 3? What does Paul say is the relationship between a husband and wife in v. 3?

2. What does Paul say a husband should not do in v. 4? What does he say a wife should do in v. 5? What does Paul say a man should not have in v. 14? What does Paul say a woman should have in v. 15?

3. In verses 17-19, what problem does Paul identify is present in the church at Corinth?

4. In verses 20, which church ordinance is Paul talking about?

5. How did the sins of the Corinthians manifest in the Corinthian church in verses 21-22?

6. Which Old Testament celebration is Paul describing in vs. 23-26? What does Jesus say about this Old Testament celebration?

7. How does Paul describe the sins of the Corinthians in verses 27-30?

8. According to verses 31-34, how can anyone avoid the sins of the Corinthians?

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Interpretation of the Biblical Text

1. How does Paul’s explanation of how the God the Son relates to God the Father in verse 3 help us understand what Paul says about husbands and wives in verses 3-16?

2. Though there are many debates among scholars as to what exactly is going on in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, what are some of the obvious principles we can draw from this section?

3. Though Paul is obviously talking about the Lord’s Supper in verses 17-34, why does he tell the Corinthians that they are not *actually* eating the Lord’s Supper in verse 20?

4. Paul speaks in a dire manner in verses 27-30 about the fate of the Corinthians if they do not stop abusing the Lord’s table. Why do you think the Lord’s Supper is a focus of God’s discipline on his church? Why is it so important? How does Paul say we can avoid such discipline?

5. Take a minute to think through how Crossroads does the Lord’s Supper and then compare that to 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. What elements are present in our whole Lord’s Supper observance? Are we doing it correctly, according to 1 Corinthians 11?

Application of the Biblical Text

1. This week memorize 1 Corinthians 11:26 and read through 1 Corinthians 12 a few times in preparation for the discussion next week.

2. Keep up with our annual Bible reading plan this week. If you have gotten behind, pick up where we are right now. You can always go back and read what you’ve missed as you have time.

3. If someone in your Life Group was struggling with the kinds of things discussed in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16, related to hair length, gender expression, etc. (e.g. “Is there such a thing as an un-Christian haircut?”), how might you use this text to help them better understand the issue?

4. What are some ways modern churches can look like the Corinthian church as we approach the Lord’s Supper? How might our sins be the same as theirs?

5. If someone in your Life Group asked you how they should spiritually prepare for the Lord’s Supper, what would you tell them? What spiritual disciplines should we all be practicing in preparation for the next Lord’s Supper?
