

Small Groups @ TBC - Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 28 October 2018 (All Age Service)
Speaker: Mike Levy
Title: The Lord's Supper
Read: 1 Corinthians 11 verses 17-34

Suggestion

Do it! Have a meal together as a group, followed by communion, before looking at this study.

Corinth

Corinth was a large city famous as a commercial centre, characterized by Greek culture whose people worshipped many gods in at least 12 temples. People lived an immoral life and it was a divided city between the haves and the have nots. In this city a small group of followers of the way had begun, they reflected the city including their divisions.

Mealtimes

This group of people met in homes and Sunday was a working day. On a Sunday evening they would gather in the home of one of their wealthier members for a meal (Agape) followed by sharing the bread and wine. But all was not well, the wealthy who arrived first ate most of the food and got drunk leaving little for the poor and the slaves who got there later after a day at work.

The whole meal was being spoilt by people living life wrongly and being selfish. What should be a thankful celebration was being ruined by the lifestyle of Corinth invading the new life of the followers of Jesus.

Examining ourselves

It was this issue that Paul addresses in verses 27 and 28 again.

1. We are all unworthy in one sense because we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But we become worthy because of the death of Jesus, one of the things we remember at communion.
2. The 'un-worthy manner' that Paul refers to is an adverb describing the way we take communion, it is about our heart intention.
3. By examining ourselves Paul means us to do a private mental health check of our relationship with Jesus. Are we trusting him? Are we at odds with each other? Have we done something that we have not said sorry for?

How do we come to communion?

1. Communion is not for the sinless, because none of us are. It is for those who are dealing with their sin on the heart level as they walk with Jesus.
2. Communion is not a time for us to feel condemned for our sins, but it is a time to remember that we are put right with God through the death of Jesus.
3. Communion is a time when we remember and demonstrate our unity as believers, show that we share with each other and look out for one another and love one another.

Reflection

1. Is Thornbury Baptist Church truly a representation of the town?
2. In what ways do the lifestyle and values of the world invade our life? How can we guard against this?
3. 'Familiarity breeds contempt' as the saying goes, how can we keep communion 'fresh'.
4. What does communion mean for you?
5. Discuss how verses 27 & 28 have been described and used in your Christian experience?
6. At the end of the passage Paul says "when I come I will give further directions" what 'further directions' would you give to Corinth? To TBC?
7. The meal at TBC on the first Sunday on the month is an Agape meal - discuss!