



The Meal

1 Corinthians 11:17-33

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1. As a group, think about what your ultimate meal would be (Don't worry about the calories or cholesterol). What would you include as an appetizer? What would be the main dish? The sides? What about dessert?
2. Thinking backward through your life, are there any special times centered around food that were especially meaningful? Why?
3. How does sharing a meal together help us to be more open with each other?

Examining our relationship with others (verses 17-26)

4. What was going on in the Corinthian Church that does Paul not "commend" them for?
5. Consider the statement made by Jason Johansen: *"About 10 years ago, I grew disillusioned with the church I had attended all my life. I continued to attend, but I avoided the people there. I kept greetings brief and conversations superficial. I came late and left quickly after the service. It surprised me how easy it was to hide in plain sight in church, especially when I had been active there my whole life. What surprised me even more since then is how common this experience is."* (1)
6. Have you ever felt this way?
7. Is it possible to have intimacy with Jesus and yet remain isolated from others in the Body of Christ? Why or why not?
8. How would you respond to someone who says, *"I'm a Christian. But, I don't go to church."*
9. Paul uses The Lord's Supper to illustrate the heart level attitude we need to have towards each other. What is Paul trying to help us understand?

Examining our relationship with God (verses 27-32)

10. What does it mean to "examine" ourselves? How do we do that?
11. Read James 1:22-25. Is it possible to "examine" ourselves without that examination making any difference in our relationship with God and others? Why or why not?
12. What might be the results of honest self examination and judgment? What is required of us if we are to experience these results?

Processing all that... (verses 33,34)

13. In thinking through the application of what Paul means by *"wait for one another"*, in the same article, Jason Johansen writes: *"We are not meant to go to church alone. When we refuse our responsibility for those next to us, our gatherings become hallow rituals. But when, in Jesus' name, we lay down our lives for one another, we become a powerful witness of God's love. So different from our consumer culture that uses people up and then excludes those no longer useful."* (1)
14. What might be the results of our choosing to live laying down our lives for one another?

Take home questions:

15. What difference will this study make in your life this week?
16. Are there any different choices you need to make?

1. "Going To Church Alone" - Jason Johansen, Leadership Journal, Fall 2013