



# The Gathering



## MARCH 5, 2023 / COMMUNION / 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34

*THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH WAS FIGHTING DIVISIONS IN MULTIPLE AREAS. IN A SEGREGATED SOCIETY, THE CHURCH WAS WHERE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE COULD FIND BELONGING IN A NEW FAMILY. DESPITE THIS, PEOPLE HAD A DIFFICULT TIME BREAKING OUT OF SOCIETAL NORMS. IN THE CASE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, THE RICH PEOPLE IN THE CONGREGATION FEASTED ON A MEAL AND WERE DRUNK WHEN THE POOR PEOPLE SHOWED UP. PAUL CALLS OUT THE MISUSE OF THIS SACRED ORDINANCE, BRINGS THEM BACK TO THE ORIGINAL MEANING, AND THEN GIVES THEM A POSITIVE WAY FORWARD.*

1. The dominant image of the church in the New Testament is a new family. You can tell a lot about a family by how they do meals together. To get to know each other more, take a few minutes to draw a picture of your family dinner table when you were growing up. Pay attention to what you learn about each other as you briefly share your pictures with one another.

### 2. READ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34.

**Note:** The early church would normally share a weekly meal together called the "love feast." This meal was followed by taking the bread and cup together to remember the sacrifice of Jesus.

3. The main point of Sunday's sermon was "Selfishness and sacrifice can't share a table." Where is selfishness modeled in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34?

4. While we might not face the exact issues in our church today, how might our individualistic society make experiencing communion difficult?

5. Take some time to re-read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. What stands out about the sacrifice of Jesus to you from this passage?

6. Paul gives two solutions to the selfishness plaguing the Corinthians- examine your heart (1 Corinthians 10:28) and prioritize togetherness over independence (1 Corinthians 10:33). How might those solutions impact our relationships beyond simply taking communion?

7. Spend time praying together. Ask God to reveal anything that might be getting in the way of your relationship with Him or each other. Also, reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus and what it means for you individually and as a group.