

## Being the Community Christ Died For...

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**Big Idea: Is my relationship with Jesus shaping how I do community with other Christians?**

In the middle of instituting the Lord's Supper and revealing the true meaning of the passover, as revealed through the sacrifice of Jesus to come, Jesus makes this statement:

**John 13:34-35 (ESV) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."**

**I want to begin by showing you what the community of Christ looks like in practical application, then I want to show you how we get there according to what Paul says in the passage before us.**

**Acts 2:42-47 (ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.**

**How do we demonstrate that we are being shaped by Christ and that we truly are the community Christ died for?**

**1 Corinthians 11:17-22 (ESV) But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the**

better but for the worse. [18] For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, [19] for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. [20] When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. [21] For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. [22] What! Do you not have houses 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 commend you in this? No, I will not.

There was no place for disunity and selfishness in the life of the church as they gathered together as a community. They had weekly gatherings that demonstrated the life of the body (love feasts—Acts 20:7; 2 Peter 2:13; Jude 1:12)

### 1. Marked by Christlike character

- A. Unity (18-19) No place for division over rich or poor; no place for division over race or ethnicity, no place for division over male or female, no place for division because we are one through the shed blood of Jesus.
- B. Selflessness (20-22) No place for a “me-first” mentality in the community of Christ. Jesus eternally lives the opposite of a “me-first” mentality. He came for us. He gave his life for us. He is interceding for us right now. He will one day return for us.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV) For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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 also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### 2. Living by Christlike purposes

- A. **Sacrificial love (23-25)** In the midst of betrayal, Jesus demonstrated sacrificial love. Is my life marked by sacrificial love or do I betray the love and grace of Christ by living for my own desires, not giving my life away because of the grace of Jesus and for the glory of God.
- B. **Kingdom focus (26)** My life is brought into community with other believers in order to demonstrate the perfect love of Jesus to those around me. By proclaiming the Lord's death, I tell others about the sacrificial love of Christ for them. By staying focused on the fact that the risen Lord is a returning King, I stay focused on the purposes of the King until he returns. I can't live for me and live for the King. The church of Corinth was losing sight of the sacrificial love of Jesus at the cross and their vision of the coming King was clouded.

**1 Corinthians 11:27-34 (ESV) Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. [28] Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. [29] For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. [30] That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. [31] But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. [32] But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. [33] So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another— [34] if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.**

### **3. Examined by Christlike judgment**

- A. **Worthy manner of life (27-30)** How does the cross of Jesus shape our daily life? If we aren't being transformed by the cross in a daily way in how we relate to and treat others, why not? (Eph. 4:1; Php. 1:27; Col. 1:10; 1 Thes. 2:12)
- B. **Daily discipline (31-34)** If we judged ourselves truly (lived with proper discernment toward our own spiritual condition toward the Lord and toward others) and (lived with proper

**discipline, constant training and correction that leads to correct living). This is the end goal of discernment and discipline. That we examine ourselves and constantly seek after the transformative work of Christ in our lives.**

**Jesus gave his life for you. Abide in his love and live out the same sacrificial love by living in unity and selflessness in the community of Christ. By the way we love one another we demonstrate the love of Jesus for a lost world. Let's stay focused on living this way until the Lord returns or calls us home.**