

Please open your Bibles up to I Corinthians 11-12 We'll be looking at two chapters today.

Paul is now entering into a conversation about worship services. Of course, we all know that the worship service is the most visible place that a congregation expresses who they are.

You just heard a bit of my story about the worship experience when I grew up.

I'd like you to take 15 minutes....so **pause** the video and share your story.

- Share your story about worship when you grew up? What did you like or dislike?
- What are you looking for in a worship experience today? Give specifics of what you want the worship experience to be.

Among many comments on worship that could be made, here are three points to consider about the worship experience according to Pastor Dan.

- a. Is what we are doing in worship expressing God's _____ with us?
- b. Community is an expression of _____.
- c. How are we connecting with the _____ around us without _____ our theology?

The value of I Corinthians is that the church was such a mess that they messed up everything in a real messy way including worship.

Paul spends four chapters, 11-14, on worship issues.

Chapter 11

1. Vs. 2-16, Women and head coverings. This had cultural implications that needed to be addressed.

Women in the congregation, in the name of Christian freedom, were choosing to not wear a covering and bringing into question the integrity of the congregation.

Question of headship in vs. 3. For Paul it is not subordination but different roles as the Father and the Son. Check out Ephesians 5 and Paul's clear statement of headship.

Pause the video and spend a few minutes sharing:

In our world what would those cultural things be that would harm the community?

2. Vs. 17-34, Paul talks about the Lord's Supper

One kind of Roman feast was called _____. It was an early form of a potluck dinner.

The early church had an _____ or a _____.

Pause the video and read vs. 17-26

3. Paul is clear their gatherings were doing more harm than good in four ways:

a. When you gather there are _____. (v. 18)

b. They eat and take communion before the community has _____.

They are _____.

c. Communion is to celebrate the _____ of the body.

d. There is no _____ for the sacrament.

4. Vs. 23-26, Paul restates the Words of Consecration. This is the only place in the epistles.

5. Vs. 27-32, How do we do personal examination before receiving the Sacrament. It is a concern that we don't do self-examination.

Pause the video and take 10-15 minutes for conversation....

- How could we potentially misuse the taking of the sacrament?
- In what way could we create unintended divisions between the "haves" and the "have nots?"

Chapter 12

Paul is speaking to _____ in the Body.

6. Vs. 3-6, Paul once again revisits the foundation of the Faith. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we come to a relationship with Christ Jesus. We can never forget that message.
7. **Pause** the video and read, vs. 7-11.
8. Paul is absolutely stressing the _____ unity in the community
9. **Pause** and read vs. 12-26
10. That oneness is expressed in vs. 13, "For we were all _____ by _____ Spirit into _____ body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the _____ Spirit to drink."
11. William Barclay, the theologian, gave three points:
 - a. We need each other.
 - b. We respect each other.
 - c. We out to sympathize with each other
12. (v. 27) now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it. And that is worship. In our Sunday service, we celebrate that oneness.

For discussion....

1. If you know the folks in your small group affirm the gifts that they have. Specifically speak to a gift you see in them. For example, I know one person who has an amazing gift of administration and another who has an over whelming gift of mercy.
2. In the congregation where have you seen an amazing expression of oneness occur? Share a story.

Next Meeting:

Please read **I Corinthians 13-14** for our next meeting.