

Small Group Discussion Guide (3.10.24) — 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

- What has been your experience or church background when it comes to taking the Lord's Supper? Was this idea of "fencing the table," explaining who the Lord's Supper is for, a new idea to you or not? Why would it be important?
- What did Joshua mean that there are aspects of the Lord's Supper where churches can differ, or practices that may not be explicitly laid out in Scripture as clear commands? Can you think of some of what those areas might be? What about in other areas besides the Lord's Supper? Why might this be important for Christians and churches to recognize?
- What were the three criteria given for who should be allowed to partake of the Lord's Supper? Where any of those new to you? Are there any that we need to discuss more in-depth together?
- How are each of those three areas important for "marking off" who is and who is not part of the new covenant community, the church? How do each of them protect the church?
- When should a church take the Lord's Supper? What sort of arguments can be made from the Scriptures? How might taking it more regularly, rather than less frequently, be a healthy and good thing for a church to do?
- In vs. 27-34, how does Paul instruct us to take the Lord's Supper? How were the Corinthians eating the Supper in an "unworthy manner?" How might we do the same?
- What does Paul mean by "discerning the body" (vs. 29) and "examining ourselves" (vs. 28)? What are some practical ways to do this as we take the Supper together?
- Why is it so important when taking the Supper to remember that this is a meal for sinners in need of the grace of the gospel? What could be some extremes that we could gravitate toward when we come to the Table that we should be aware of and guard ourselves from?
- Are there any other ways you were encouraged or challenged from today's passage?