

LIBERATING DISCIPLESHIP

WEEK FOUR – “The Lord’s Supper” (1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Matthew 25:31-40)

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR AUGUST 4 –

This week, our Bible Study lines up perfectly with our Sunday morning worship series on our Disciples Affirmation of Faith. We are talking about the Lord’s Supper and how it relates to discipleship which, according to our working definition, is the byproduct or evidence of our faith.

1. How do you feel about being part of a church tradition that offers weekly communion? Do you ever feel like it’s too much or that it loses its meaning because of how often we take it?
2. How does our passage from 1 Corinthians 11 impact your understanding of communion? Outside the “words of institution” that we often use (vs. 23-26), what else does this passage tell you about communion?
3. What were some of the problems that were evident in the Corinthian Church that led to the practice of the Lord’s Supper? How do they relate to problems that you see in the world today?
4. Why does Paul seem to question the church’s Christian identity? Had the church in Corinth become just another “religious club?”
5. According to Paul’s understanding of the Lord’s Supper, is there anyone who is or should be excluded from participating?
6. How does the Lord’s Supper relate to the passion story of the Crucified Christ?
7. What does it mean to “proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes?”
8. Do you think the way our church tradition practices the Lord’s Supper lines up with the passage from 1 Corinthians 11? Are we “doing it right?” If not, what should we be doing or not doing?
9. What does it mean to be a community of the “new covenant?” (vs. 25)
10. What does it mean to be “worthy” of participating in the Lord’s Supper?

11. How can the church keep an “open” table without validating injustice?

12. Who can or should “officiate” at the Lord’s Table?

13. Don Helder Camara of Recife, Brazil once said, “When I give people food, they call me a saint. When I ask why there is no food, they call me a communist.” What is your interpretation of that statement, and how does it relate to the Lord’s Table.