

**PHOUSEGROUP NOTES:** Week Beginning 2nd October 2016

**RSVP - 'AN INVITATION TO COMMUNION'**

Read: (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

**STARTERS:**

Take it in turns to SHARE with one another WHAT you would have on the menu if you could choose your favourite meal to eat and WHY that would be?

WHAT is it about a meal (other the fact we need to eat) that brings people together and invites good conversation and company?

Perhaps one or two could SHARE a time in their life when they felt especially welcome at a meal table and WHY they felt that way?

DISCUSS the link between the main meal eaten in the Old Testament for God's people THE PASSOVER (Exodus 12) and the main meal Jesus invites us to eat as a NEW COVENANT of His love. (Matthew 26:17-29)

**MAIN COURSE:**

CONTRAST the difference between what Paul says about these Corinthians believers (1 Corinthians 11:17-22) and those Luke speaks of in (Acts 2:42-47).

**Q.** HOW hard is it to eat a meal when there's a bad atmosphere at the table?

**Q.** WHAT causes a bad atmosphere at the table and what does it lead to?

**Q.** IS there a link between (Vs.18-22 and Vs.30) and if so WHAT is it?

**Q.** According to Paul, WHAT does the ideal celebration of the Lord's Supper look like? SEE if you can link the words below into the text and DISCUSS their meaning and significance to communion.

COMMEMORATION - APPRECIATION – PROCLAMATION – EXAMINATION  
CONSIDERATION and ANTICIPATION.

**Q.** HOW can we get closer to God's ideal when we come to take communion?  
eg: DO we give enough thought to the return of Christ when we take it or are we more about looking back than forwards?

## A PERSONAL THOUGHT:

To me there is not a more beautiful picture of what Jesus did for us and what He means to us than the Lord's Supper. In a day when people agree that Jesus was a great teacher or a great philosopher or a great moral leader, Jesus himself said, "*I want you to remember not just how I was born or how I lived, but how I died.*" The Lord's Supper says to us each time we observe it - never forget - Jesus died for you.

## AFTERS:

- Q. HOW can we '*discern the body of Christ*' (Vs.29) as we take the bread and Wine and WHAT do we think that means anyway?
- Q. HOW can we use the Lord's Supper to build unity in the body, rather than perpetuating disunity and division? CONSIDER (Vs.33)
- Q. Do you think that the way we 'DO' communion has become more important to us than the reason WHY we take it? If so then HOW can we change it?

## TO FINISH – not coffee and chocolates but **BREAD AND WINE?**

If possible (and appropriate – decide in your groups) why not share the Lord's Supper together as a small group.

Try to put into practice Paul's clear thinking principles.

Share with one another and pray for each other.

Pray for a greater experience of unity & bonding as you eat and drink together.

Sing a song perhaps or share the ancient proclamation together: "**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**" It is up to you but make sure you do it honourably judging your own hearts before the Lord and no one else.

***"HOW CAN I SAY THANKS - FOR ALL THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME?  
THINGS SO UNDESERVED - THAT YOU GAVE YOUR LIFE TO PROVE YOUR LOVE FOR ME?  
THE VOICES OF A MILLION ANGELS - COULD NOT EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE  
ALL THAT I AM AND EVER HOPE TO BE – I OWE IT ALL TO THEE."*** (ANDREA CROUCH)

Shaun