

the BASICS



1 CORINTHIANS 11:18-34

CHURCH CHALLENGES

EVEN GREAT THINGS AT CHURCH CAN GO BAD

Agape Meals – the Christian Eranos

Parts of the Bible are simply letters correcting mistakes.

Belonging to Christ breaks down _____

Galatians 3:26-29

There are differences which should not divide.

Cultural – Societal – Immutable

At the Lord's Table we acknowledge:

- ✦ I am _____
- ✦ Jesus was broken _____

“Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

You do not need to be _____.

You need to be _____!

“But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.”

It is not *you* and Jesus at the table – it is *us* and Jesus.



ENCOUNTER GROUPS

Spiritual Growth Small Groups at Emmanuel Reformed Church

Getting Started

Do you like potluck dinners?

What makes a church potluck good, what makes one not so good?

What about the message?

Review the sermon together. What were the main points? What stood out to you as important? What questions did it raise for you?

Read **1 Corinthians 11:18-22** – What divisions happen within a church like ERC? What could cause them? What can be done to prevent them?

Verse 19 seems to indicate that some differences (lit. factions) are necessary to show who is right. What do you think this is about? What might some of these issues be?

Read **Galatians 3:26-29** and **Colossians 3:11** – What are differences which should not divide? How do we keep focused on Christ in a way which unites?

What about you?

When have you felt left out or un-connected within a church? What were the causes of this? What did you do?

What can you do to help other people feel welcomed and help them connect at ERC?

Practically speaking, how can we judge ourselves in a way which helps us grow closer to Jesus, and come to the table in a worthy manner? Where is the line between judging self, and hating self or beating ourselves up?

Read **1 Corinthians 11:29-32** – Does this passage comfort you, scare you, or raise questions for you?

Something to do:

Sometimes we need to return to the basics.
Consider using this prayer daily:

“I am a sinner. Lord Jesus, thank you for allowing your body to be broken for me, forgiving my sin, and saving my life. Amen.”