

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE - December 2nd 2018
The Mystery Of Christ & Communion

* This weeks message aimed at helping us understand what communion is and what it is not. The mystery of Christ is communion and communion is the mystery of Christ. In our group we will unpack this idea even further as we look to embrace a life style of communion with God & others.

Q? If you heard the sermon from this past Sunday, what caught your imagination or stood out to you most? Take some time and share your thoughts on this? ____

Q? When it comes to the subject of “communion”, what have you defined it as or understood it to be based on your experience? **Discuss:** _____

The Apostle Paul says this in 1 Corinthians 8:8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

Q? How does this passage mess with or push back against many Christians understanding of communion? What is Paul getting at here? **Discuss:** _____

Read the following passages back to back aloud in your groups

Ephesians 2:15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ

Ephesians 3:6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Q? From these passages, what do you see that helps us understand more clearly the true meaning of communion? **Discuss:** _____

The word “Communion” in the greek is koinónia (koy-nohn-ee’-ah) Meaning: *Common-Unity partnership, participation, sharing in, spiritual fellowship OR a fellowship in the spirit.*

Q? How does this understanding of communion help strengthen, build up, protect and bless the family of God “His Church” more than just seeing communion as a ceremony with crackers and juice? **Discuss:** _____

We see true “communion” on display in the early church right after pentecost: Read aloud in your group:

Acts 4:32-35 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Q? What produces this kind of love and unity? What hinders it? **Discuss:** _____

Q? What do you imagine would happen through a church body that embraced & lived out life styles of genuine community? - How might God be challenging you in this regard? **Discuss:**

Close by praying as the Holy Spirit Leads: