

Our Problem: Wandering Hearts

We all struggle with sustaining the intensity and intimacy required for relationships to grow.

¹ *"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lamp-stands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. ⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp-stand from its place.*

Revelation 2:1-5 (NIV)

God's Solution: Focused Remembrance

The pathway of "breaking bread" together restores our spiritual passion by forcing us to do certain things.

⁴² *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

Remember who Jesus is and what He's done for us -

²³ *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way, He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

I Corinthians 11:23-26 (NASB)

My Response: _____

Following the Pathway of “Breaking Bread” Together:

Remember who we are and our present need of repentance -

²⁷ 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. ²⁸ A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

³¹ But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. ³² When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

I Corinthians 11:27-32 (NIV)

The Warning:

I Corinthians 11:27

The Instruction:

I Corinthians 11:28

The Reason:

I Corinthians 11:29 - 30

The Application:

I Corinthians 11:31 - 32

My Response = _____

Remember who we are as fellow members of His family -

17 But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. 20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, 21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

I Corinthians 11:17-22 (NASB)

33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

I Corinthians 11:33,34 (NASB)

The Rebuke:

I Corinthians 11:17-22

The Application:

I Corinthians 11:33-34

My Response = _____

Discussion Questions:

1. Human nature causes all of us to “drift” away from the most important relationships in our lives (even God). Share a time when this has happened to some degree in your life.
2. What is it about looking at old pictures, or hearing an old song that’s “special” to you and someone close to you, that begins to warm your heart?
3. What new insight did you gain about the Lord’s supper from this message?
4. Is there any personal relationship in the body of Christ that needs to be repaired...“As far as it depends on you?”
5. Are there any specific steps you need to take to “restore your first love” with Jesus? If so, what does that look like this week?