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Know You Belong  
1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Have you been part of a group, where you didn't really belong?

## The Problem with Togetherness (in the church)

### I. Coming together physically but not \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Cor. 11:17-19 *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.*

- *I do not praise you...*

1 Cor. 11:2 *Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.*

- Are we any different?
- Do we "show up to church" or do we belong?
- Do we receive grace or do we share it?
- Are we physically together, but practically apart?

### II. Coming together in form, but not in \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Cor. 11:20-26 *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. 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.*

What is your faith like?

Is it a faith based on showing up, or is it a faith based on knowing and being known?

### III. Receiving the body of Christ, but not \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Cor. 11:27-34 *Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. 30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. 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.*

- Are we making grace all about us?
- Are we excluding people from the grace of God?
- Are we conscious of other people?
- Are you waiting for them?
- Or is our faith only about what Jesus can do for us?
- Do we belong to the body of Christ?

Point:



### Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. When does my faith feel more like "showing up"? When does it feel more like "belonging"? What would it feel like to really belong to the body of Christ in a group with others? How could I develop a place to belong to the body of Christ?
2. How do I make my faith all about me? How do I share faith with others?

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email [pastortodd@thevineva.org](mailto:pastortodd@thevineva.org) or call 703.819.7795 to set up an appointment.