

Understand your Bible

Your notes

1 Corinthians 11

Questions to start you thinking about the chapter - the answers are in verses in the chapter:

1. What did Paul want the Corinthians to know about the relationship between God, Christ, men and women?

2. What did Jesus say the bread and cup of wine represent?

3. What does Jesus say is the significance of breaking bread and drinking wine?

Main points that you see in these sections of the chapter:

v 1 to 3

v 4 to 16

v 17 to 22

v 23 to 34

Related theme verses to look at: God's people - The Breaking of Bread.

The evening before his arrest, trial and crucifixion, Jesus told his disciples where to prepare for a Passover meal:

- Matthew 26 v 18

During that meal Jesus gave a special significance to the bread that they ate together and the cup from which they drank:

- Matthew 26 v 26 to 28

Luke's gospel record tells us that Jesus asked his disciples to remember him in this way:

- Luke 22 v 19 and 20

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The apostle Paul makes it very clear that all Christian believers should remember Jesus in this way:

- 1 Corinthians 11 v 23 to 26

In the first century church it became the custom to do this weekly. The shorthand description of this activity is 'breaking bread' although it also involves the sharing of a cup:

- Acts 20 v 7

The bread used would in fact be a loaf, and is so described by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians:

- 1 Corinthians 10 v 17

Although the cup most probably contained wine it is described by Jesus as the "new covenant in my blood" in 1 Corinthians 11 v 25 (see above). He also called it "the fruit of the vine" which he said he will drink again in the future Kingdom of God:

- Mark 14 v 25

What have you personally learnt from this chapter and theme?