

**The Old Rugged Cross:  
The Death of Jesus in the Letters of Paul  
Session 5 – Jesus' Death and the People of God  
Part 2 – March 24, 2008**

OPEN:

Share a time when you received Holy Communion and felt that it was particularly meaningful. (Perhaps the first time you received or the first time with a child or grandchild). Share what made it meaningful for you.

REVIEW:

According to Paul, who was the major player in the death of Christ?  
Does this mean that God the Father killed Jesus?

What does Christ do for us by his death on the cross?

How do the death and resurrection of Jesus interrelate in God's saving activity?

What boundaries that used to exist between people were destroyed by the death of Christ?

STUDY:

In the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul dealt with issues of worship practice in chapter 11 and of morality in chapter 5. In both of these instances, the death of Christ is used as an interpretive aid to guide the people in acting in a way that would be pleasing to the Lord.

As background for 1 Corinthians 11, read 1 Corinthians 10:14-17. What does Paul say about the practice of communion?

What happens to the people of God when they partake of the bread, according to v.17?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22. What is the problem with the manner in which the Corinthians celebrate the Lord's supper?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. What does Paul remind the Corinthians of?

What does Paul mean when he says "For as often as you this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes?"

Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-34. What does Paul warn the Corinthians of in v.27?

What does Paul mean in verse 29 when he says “all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves?”

What practical application comes at the end of this passage?

We now turn from worship to an issue of personal morality. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-8.  
What is the problem?

Why is this a problem?

Why is this a problem for the Christian community?

What does the death of Jesus have to do with this situation?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. Who are the Corinthians allowed to associate with, and who are they not to associate with?

### REFLECT

What does the death of Christ have to do with worship practice?

...with morality as practiced by the Christian community?

...with who we are as the people of God?