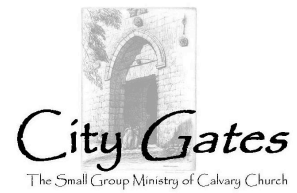


City Gates Discussion Guide

The Body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

Pastor Glenn Blossom



Entering In: (Ice breaker questions – answer one)

What has been the most unusual food you've ever eaten?

What is your favorite food?

The Context:

Every church has problems. That's because every church is composed of sinners like you and me. 1 Corinthians is about a church with problems ranging from schisms to immorality, lawsuits to arrogance and even their views on the resurrection and giving. Reading 1 Corinthians helps put most church problems into perspective....we don't have it too bad!

Chapters 8-10 address the problem of idols as the Corinthians wrestle with the issue of relating to their culture and society.

Going Deeper

The Corinthians exhibited an attitude of "I can handle it!" when going to peoples' homes and eating food sacrificed to idols.

Describe a situation in your life where you thought, "I can handle it," and then realized that you actually ended up compromising.

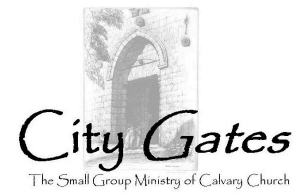
Pastor said in his sermon, "Don't think just because you go to church, do the "right" things or religious things, that you're safe!"

How would you describe the difference between pursuing "safe" and pursuing "Christ-likeness"?

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1. Our inclusion into true relationship in the body of Christ is by covenant confession, true eating of the sacrifice and life of Christ.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.
John 6:54

What does Jesus mean in this verse? It may help to put the passage in the greater context of verses 52-58.

What does "true eating of the sacrifice and life of Christ" look like in the everyday?

What role does the celebration of communion play in this?

What does the communion table mean for you? Share with the others in your group things you might do to prepare for celebrating communion.

Have you ever experienced a unique or unusual celebration of communion?

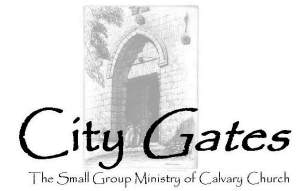
***Koinonia* literally means "communion by intimate participation." In the biblical sense, this includes both *koinonia* with Christ and with the body of believers.**

Knowing that there are others in our church community who still do not yet know this level of inclusion, what are ways that you might be an encouragement to them as they journey towards greater inclusion?

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2. Such a covenant confession is exclusive of all other allegiances.

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24

These things are “no god at all” (1 Cor 8) but they are things in which the demonic live (1 Cor 10).

What are the masters / idols of your day-to-day situations?

What are some concrete examples of how you might “flee from idolatry” in these situations?

One challenge of the inclusion in Christ’s body is the allegiance we are called to have to the body. There are times when it is difficult to love others and live out an allegiance to them.

How do the following passages speak to the temptation to renounce that allegiance?

Proverbs 16:23-24

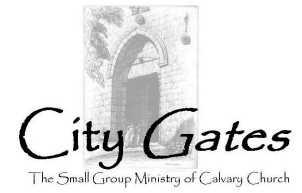
Romans 12:17-21

1 Peter 3:8-15

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What are ways that you are able to move from “tolerating” someone to being able to love that person?

What does it mean for you to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds,” especially when it is someone you find difficult to love?