

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:17-22  
Topic: Selfishness. Church.  
Study: First Corinthians  
Week: 44  
Series: 1 of 3

Focal Point Radio Ministries  
November 22 & 23, 2003  
Message # 03-33  
Pastor Mike



part 1  
**Consumer Christianity**  
*The Problem of Me-ism in the Church*

**1. Realize** \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.17, 21)

**2. Keep** \_\_\_\_\_ (v.20)

**3. For** \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.18-19, 22)

*1 Cor. 11:17-22*

<sup>17</sup> In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. <sup>18</sup> In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. <sup>19</sup> No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. <sup>20</sup> When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, <sup>21</sup> for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. <sup>22</sup> Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not! (NIV)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. What are some examples of "me-ism" that you have observed in modern Christianity?
2. How is this "me-centered" perspective evident in how the call to "follow Christ" is so often presented to non-Christians?

Why is this a problem we should care about?

3. What is your criteria for deciding whether or not you'll come to a church event or function on a given day?

How does your experience at church differ when you come focused on honoring Christ and pleasing his people as opposed to the times you have come with a fixation on "getting something out of it" for yourself?

4. What are some practical ways you can put others' needs before your own in regards to our gathering together week by week?

*We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.*

**Sunday**

*Dan. 3-4 & Jms. 4*

**Monday**

*Dan. 5-6 & Jms. 5*

**Tuesday**

*Dan. 7-8 & 1Pt. 1*

**Wednesday**

*Dan. 9-10 & 1Pt. 2*

**Thursday**

*Dan. 11-12 & 1Pt. 3*

**Friday**

*Hos. 1-2 & 1Pt. 4-5*

**Saturday**

*Hos. 3-4 & 2Pt. 1*

*Here are some resources which may help you understand and implement the truths presented in this week's sermon.*

- Begg, Alistair. **Made for His Pleasure: Ten Benchmarks of Vital Faith**. Moody Press, 1996.
- Benton, John. **Christians in a Consumer Culture**. Christian Focus Publications, 1999.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. **The Cost of Discipleship**. SCM Press, 1959.
- Brother Lawrence. **The Practice of the Presence of God (updated language edition)**. Whitaker House, 1982.
- Clapp, Rodney, ed. **The Consuming Passion: Christianity & the Consumer Culture**. InterVarsity Press, 1998.
- Kroll, Woodrow. **Struggling with Selfishness: Choosing to Look Past Yourself**. Back to the Bible, 1996.
- Lutzer, Erwin. **Ten Lies About God and How You Might Already Be Deceived**. Word Publishing, 2002.
- McWilliams, Warren. **Christ & Narcissus: Prayer in a Self-Centered World**. Herald Press, 1992.
- Metzger, Will. **Tell The Truth: The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person by Whole People**. InterVarsity, 1984.
- Ortlund, Raymond C. **Whoredom: God's Unfaithful Wife in Biblical Theology**. InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- Packer, J. I. **Hot Tub Religion: Christian Living in a Materialist World**. Tyndale, 1987.
- Piper, John. **A Godward Life: Savoring the Supremacy of God in All of Life**. Multnomah Press, 1999.
- \_\_\_\_\_. **Desiring God: Meditations of a Christians Hedonist**. Multnomah Press, 1996.
- Swindoll, Charles R. **Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living**. Word Books, 1981.
- Tozer, A. W. **Whatever Happened to Worship: A Call to True Worship**. Christian Publications, 1985.