

# CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Gospel Shaped Eyes // Life Group Study The Lords Supper – Part 2

*We live between the times. We are situated after the death and resurrection of Christ but before his return, when God will completely restore creation. That future day will bring in the fullness of God's new creation – a new heaven and a new earth with Christ ruling as King on earth.*

*There are two ages up and running: the new age, begun in Christ by the power of the Spirit, and the old age, or the present evil age, which is still ruled by the fallen powers. This is why our current existence as followers of Jesus is filled with tension. We find ourselves in desperate need of an apocalypse – a life-giving revelation to explain our paradoxical and often bizarre sojourn through this world. Why is it that, though we are the people of God, the one who rules the universe, we still experience pain and loss? Why do we feel empty and long for something more? Why is creation in such a battered state? Does God care? Does God even know? Am I sinning by feeling so torn about God and God's promises of salvation in Christ*

**TIM GOMBIS 'THE DRAMA OF EPHESIANS'**

God demonstrates his great love for us by giving us Jesus as the example to follow, Jesus shows us how to navigate this tension. Jesus demonstrates how to live in the Kingdom of God on earth with the help and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

### **Read Luke 22:21-27**

The disciples had been traveling with Jesus for some time. Sitting at his feet, ministering with him, hearing his teaching – and whilst we can almost feel the tension of Jesus ministry on earth reaching its climactic 'final' scene (the beauty and gift of hindsight perhaps) the disciples appear strangely oblivious and distracted. They seem to be hearing but not really hearing.

Imagine yourselves at the table with Jesus and the disciples, describe the scene.

Why are the disciples pre-occupied with establishing who among them is the greatest?

How do we define success in our day and age?

What is success in the kingdom of God?

### **Read John 15:13**

What does it look like in our everyday lives to 'lay down our lives for our friends?'

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## Read 22:31-34

Jesus gave Simon the name Peter when he became an apostle; his new name accompanied his new appointment.

- Why is it significant that Jesus called Peter by his old name?
- What was at stake?
- Discuss the differences between Judas and Peter.
- Share your experiences of navigating the tension between the new age and the old age (as described in the quote above).

The combination and weight of our human weakness + the devils schemes can at times seem too much to bear. However Jesus reassuring words to Simon Peter show us that we can overcome such an onslaught.

- What does Jesus say will enable us to overcome?

As Jesus said, Peter's rising wasn't for his own personal glory; rather it was to be turned into strength for others. Just as Jesus strength had strengthened Peter, so Peter's strength would strengthen his brothers. What a powerful picture of the kingdom of God. We are strong together.

- How is my faith strengthening others?

Reflections...

Am I in walking step with the principles of the kingdom?

Am I turning towards Christ or away from Christ?