

The Family Meal – Week 4

How did we get here? Galatians 1:6 - 7

1. Small Changes that have a big effect Galatians 1:6 - 7
 - I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting...
 - Turning to a different gospel
 - Which is really no gospel at all
 - You are being thrown into confusion

2. Love Feasts and infiltrators – 1st Century AD
 - Jude 12
 - A response to persecution
 - Didache 9 – 10, 14
 - i. Lord's supper is for Baptised Christians and for those who repent of their sins

3. Power, purity and background influence the Lord's supper 2nd – 6th Century AD
 - Ignatius AD110 'It is not permitted either to baptize or to hold a love feast without the Bishop
 - 'Bread and wine is not just common food anymore' Justin Martyr
 - The influence of the Gnostics – Spiritual and Physical separation
 - Asceticism – Women excluded, Celibacy in the priesthood encouraged, Love feasts banned – the bread and wine begin to be seen as special
 - AD692 Council of Trullian the agape meal (love feast) was banned, never to return to return to the medieval church
 - The meal becomes the Mass – Latin the language of the church

4. The Reformation battles (16th Century)

- Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and Oecolampadius
- Reformed – but was it reformed enough?

Digging Deeper

Read Acts 2: 42 – 47, Acts 4: 32 – 47 Galatians 1: 6 – 7

1. What activities characterised the early church in the Acts passages? Make a list of what was taking place
2. In what ways does church today operate in a similar way and in what ways does it differ?
3. What influence did the world have on the church in the 1st and 2nd century?
4. In what ways did the church react to these influences and how did that influence their beliefs and practice?
5. In what ways can we be influenced towards a different gospel?
6. Would you agree that the reformers who bravely led the reformation didn't go far enough?
7. How would you react to an outreach event that was built around a meal and The Lord's Supper here at PBC?