

LET'S GET TOGETHER SOMETIME

They were strangers in a new town, and they didn't know anyone else. They wondered if they would like it there, if folks would accept them, if they would find a place for themselves. It was at first a lonely time. Then, someone stopped by and, after a polite conversation, said: "let's get togethr sometime. How about dinner with us tomorrow evening"

Then things changed, for there is something deeply significant about the act of being invited to sit around a table and share food with one another. The taking of food together may well be the most intimate social occasion we know. Usually, after you have eaten with a person you share a special bond with him.

Maybe we might think that we push things a little to far when we speak of eating as a religious act. But the things we do most naturally are often the best insights into who we really are and are meant to be.

Down thru the ages, in evey land, eating together is a kind of mark of unity. The family meal, eaten together at the end of the day, is a kind of sacrament of family life, and outward and visible sign - the meal - of inward and spiritual graces - the love of the family members.

How fitting for our Lord to choose the simplest and yet the deepest expression of human life thru which to show himself to us - a meal of loving friends celebrated in the UPPER ROOM. ~~Our communion invites~~

Our communion unites us with that simple meal so long ago and reminds us that in a meal we see a symbol of the manner of life which God intends for the world.

We human beings desperately need to get together today, for the separation seeming broadens between races, conflicting ideologies, young and old, conservative and liberal rich and poor, male and female, black and white. Families disintegrate, marriages dissolve, churches split apart over petty concerns. People used to build towns in order to be close to one another but now they sprawl out to restricted subdivisions in order to get away from one another, and we spend our vacations trying to get where no one else is. Can we get together sometime, we ask?

Out of this deep yearning and deep need for togetherness, for community, out of our gnawing hunger for a touch, a kind word, a common bond, comes our participation in the MEAL. When we come together we remind ourselves that life is better in communion than in loneliness, that it is better to feed and to be fed rather than selfishly starve, that it is not good to live and eat alone.

I think that is what Jesus had in mind as he instituted the Lord's Supper. "If you want a symbol of what the Christian life is meant to be" he seemed to say, "here is a meal of loving friends".

Our coming together is the hopeful coming together of a

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people laboring under painful divisions. The church may be the body of Christ in the this world, but we acknowledge it to be a painfully disjointed body. Within the church's walls are young and old, rich and poor, puffed up and humble, baost-ful and insecure. Do you know hhe name of the person beside your in the pew, do you know all of them in the pew ahead of you? ~~Do-you-know-his~~ You may know his name, but do you know his pain, his needs, and does he care for you and your secret needs? Perhaps here, at the meal, the disjointed body of Christ cna start to tkae on visilbe form.

The Apsostle Paul had a similar problem at First Church Corinth. They had their share of dibision, puffed up people, rude gluttons, and selfrighteous saints. But Paul used communion as a symbol when he wrote to the Corinthains of what they had the potential to be: "Because there is one loaf of bread, we who are many become one in Christ". Here, says Paul is the time toget together.

"Let's get together sometime". And no better time than now, we say, and no better place than here with our Lord.