

Communion: An Act of Worship

July 5th & 6th, 2014

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

The Lord's Supper or Communion

Communion: (Latin: *communio*) "Fellowship; ... The body of Christians who have one common faith and discipline. ..." ¹

"The Lord's Supper is an act of worship taking the form of a ceremonial meal, in which Christ's servants share bread and wine to commemorate Christ's death and to celebrate the new covenant relationship they enjoy with God." ² (emphasis added)

- ❖ The church at Corinth was not honoring our Lord Jesus during their times of Communion. Quarrelling, divisions, the neglect of the needy, and mishandling of the observance of The Lord's Supper had serious consequences among God's people!

The Bread and the Wine

Luke 22:14-20

The Bread

📖 *John 6:33-40, 50-59*

"Bread was the essential food of the ancient Israelites. Indeed, the very word 'bread' could be used generically for any kind of food. Meat was eaten by peasants only at festival occasions, and other foods supplemented bread. As the mainstay of life, bread came to be a primary metaphor for life and sustenance." ³

- ❖ Bread is used as a rich metaphor in Scripture.
 - ♦ God's Eternal Life
John 6:35 "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.'"
 - ♦ God's Righteousness
2 Corinthians 9:10 "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness."
 - ♦ Daily Physical Needs
Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread,"
 - ♦ Life's Trials
Isaiah 30:20 "And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide Himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher."
 - ♦ Life-style of Idleness
Proverbs 31:27 "She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness."
 - ♦ Daily Nourishment
Exodus 16:4 "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.'"

❖ Bread as the Covenant of Reconciliation

- ♦ Jacob and Laban being reconciled

Genesis 31:51-54 “Then Laban said to Jacob, ‘See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me. This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm. The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.’ So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, and Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country and called his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country.”

- ♦ Melchizedek and Abram confirming a covenant between them

Genesis 14:18 “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)”

- ♦ Jesus reconciling with His Disciples after His resurrection

John 21:13 “Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.”

The Wine

📖 *John 6:54*

- ❖ The Bread and the Wine are metaphors for the Body and Blood of our Lord.

- ❖ Wine is used to denote spiritual blessings from God.

- ♦ God’s Feast for His people

Isaiah 25:6 “On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.”

- ♦ The Life given by God that Satisfies

Isaiah 55:1 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”

- ♦ God gives the Best to His people

John 2:10-11 “and [the master of the feast] said to him, ‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.’ This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory. And His disciples believed in Him.”

- ♦ The Fullness of God’s Kingdom in contrast to Religion

Matthew 9:17 “Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

Communion: Partaking in the Bread and the Cup is remembering the Body of Christ given for us and the Blood of Christ shed for us!

“The Lord’s Supper has a *past* reference to Christ’s death. It has a *present* reference to our corporate participation in Him through faith. It has a *future* reference in that it is a pledge of His return.”²

Do this in Remembrance of Me!

Endnotes:

¹ Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

² Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

³ Garrett, Duane A.. "Bread, Bread of Presence." . Bible Study Tools, 2014. Web. <<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/bread-bread-of-presence.html>>.

Study Questions:

Another way we worship God is Communion (the celebration of the Lord's Supper). What is the purpose of eating the bread and drinking the cup? *1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Who may participate in Communion? *1 Corinthians 11:18,33; 1 Corinthians 10:14-18*

What warning does God give His church regarding Communion? *1 Corinthians 11:27-30*

List the 4 areas the early church devoted themselves to. *Acts 2:42*
