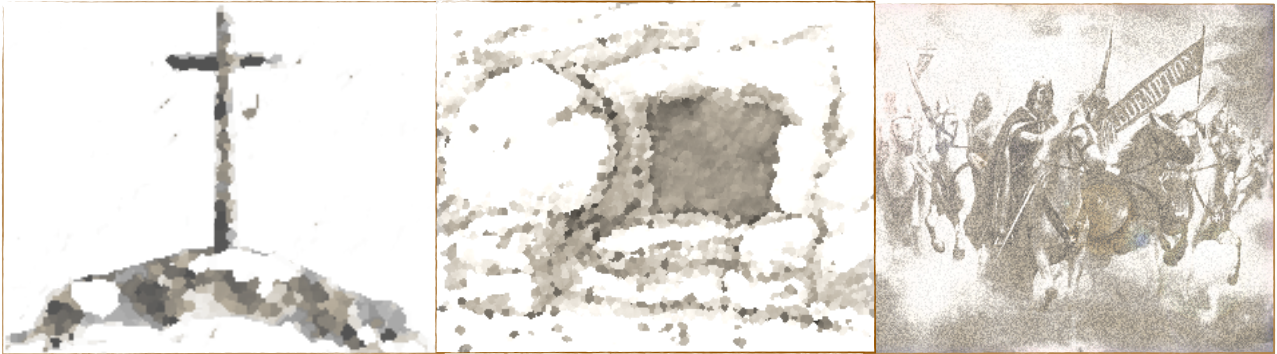


Communion



1 Corinthians 11:23-25

²³ ...the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."





Why does the church have communion?



Communion is...

- A time to remember
- A time to thank the Lord for dying on the cross for our sins.



Communion was ^(put in place) instituted by Jesus Christ

- Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances for His Church.
- An ordinance is a “prescribed practice”, something ordered by Jesus to be practised by the church.
- Baptism & Communion are the two ordinances that are prescribed by Jesus to be practised by the Church.
- Communion was instituted on the same night the Lord Jesus was betrayed. The very next day Jesus would go to the cross, suffer and shed His blood for all of mankind’s sin. We can read about what Jesus did on this night in...

✓ Matthew 26:26-30

✓ Mark 14:22-26

✓ Luke 22:19-20

✓ 1 Corinthians 11:23-25



The reason we observe communion is because Jesus told us to do so.

- In 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 Paul uses the verbs “received” & “passed on”.

i These are technical terms from Paul’s Jewish heritage for the transmission of religious instruction.

i Paul’s point is to establish that the instruction concerning communion came from Jesus himself: ‘I received [it] from the Lord.’”



What are the different “titles” for communion & what do they mean?



“Communion”

- Fellowship, Participation, Sharing (1 Corinthians 10:16)
- Communion is something that all Believers share in and participate in.



“The Lord’s Table”

- It was at a table that the Lord first instituted communion.
- It was at a table that the Lord first broke bread and passed the cup.
- This “title” is found in 1 Corinthians 10:21



“The Lord’s Supper”

- On the night before Jesus was crucified, He shared supper with His disciples. After this supper, Jesus instituted communion.
- This “title” is found in Luke 22:20 & 1 Corinthians 11:25



“The Breaking of Bread”

- This is what Jesus did when He instituted communion (Matthew 26:26)
- This “title” is found in Acts 2:42

Communion
Nagmaal
 The Lord's table
 The Lord's Supper
 Breaking bread





What does communion picture?

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

²³ ...the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

"He... took the bread" - "This is My body"

- ➔ This bread is a picture (symbol) of His body.
- ➔ When you look at the bread you will think of His body & what He did for mankind when He died on the cross for our sins.

1 Peter 2:24

²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

1 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

"He took the cup " - "This cup is... My blood"

- ➔ This cup/ wine is a picture (symbol) of His blood.
- ➔ When you look at the cup/ wine you will think of His blood & how He shed His blood on the cross to pay the penalty for mankind's sins.

Matthews 26:28

28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 1:7

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace



When Jesus shed His blood on Calvary...

- ➔ That blood ratified (*gave formal sanction to*) the New Covenant that Jeremiah had predicted ([Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)).
- ➔ The New Covenant replaced the old Mosaic Covenant ([Hebrews 8:8-13; 9:18-28](#)).
- ➔ Even though the Jews will be the major beneficiaries of the benefits of this covenant in the Millennium, all believers began to benefit from the death of Christ when He died.

When Christ established the Lord's Supper it was as though He notarized His will; it became official then. The will is the New Covenant. When He died His "estate" became available to those He chose to profit from it. Soon many people around the world, Jews and Gentiles in the church, began to benefit from the blessings of His death. However His chosen people, His son Israel, will not enter into their inheritance until the appointed time, namely the Millennium. Blessings for the church began almost immediately after Christ's death. Blessings for Israel will not begin until Christ's appointed time arrives. - *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible*



Who should take part in communion?



Jesus did not tell everyone to eat the bread & drink the cup.



This was something that He told His disciples to do.



Acts 2:41-46... It was Believers who participated in the “**breaking of bread**”



1 Corinthians 11:23-25 was written to the church...i.e. Believers.



What does it mean to eat the bread and to drink the cup unworthily?

1 Corinthians 11:27

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.



“**unworthy**” refers to the state of mind in which one comes to the Table of the Lord.

→ Of course in ourselves we are altogether unworthy. (**Romans 3:23**)

→ But we have found acceptance in the worthy One, and in Christ every believer is worthy to approach the Table of the Lord. (**2 Corinthians 5:21**)

For Example:

During the time that you are partaking of communion:



You don't think of the Saviour...



But instead think of a thousand and one other things...



And continue to participating in communion with this mindset



You would then be taking communion in an unworthy manner.



Essentially communion then becomes a pointless, dead religious ritual.



To partake with this state of mind is to do so unworthily.



Being “**guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord**” means...



Being guilty of treating them in an unworthy manner



Of profaning the “**body and the blood of the Lord**”.



It does not mean that such a person is in some special sense responsible for the death of Christ.



What does it mean to “**examine**” oneself during communion?

1 Corinthians 11:28

²⁸ But a man must **examine** himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

examine = “*dokimazetō*” (Greek) = “**test to approve**”

The reason for examining oneself is:



To determine that we are partaking in a worthy manner...

...rather than in an unworthy manner.



Is there anything in their life that would not meet God's approval?



This would involve...



Being appreciative of the significance of the Lord's body & blood.



Confessing any known sin.



What could happen if I don't take communion seriously?

1 Corinthians 11:29-32

²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. ³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

³² But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.



We need to examine ourselves...

...so the Lord will not have to examine and judge us

...for failing to participate worthily.

Coming to the Lord's Supper without confessed known sin brought judgment on the guilty participants in Corinth. In 1 Corinthians 11:30-31 we see if God's people do not judge their own sins themselves, God will judge them. This judgment may involve physical illness or even, in extreme cases, premature physical death (see: Acts 5; 1 John 5:16).



What is a good way to approach communion?

#1 We should look back in history

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

²³ ... the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

²⁵ In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

2 Corinthians 5:21,

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

➔ The broken bread **reminds us** of Christ's body given for us (1 Peter 2:24)

➔ The cup **reminds us** of Christ Jesus' shed blood. (1 Peter 1:18-19 & Ephesians 1:7)

#2 We should look forward to the future

1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of [a]our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

➔ We observe communion until the Lord returns for us

➔ The return of Jesus Christ is the blessed hope of the Believer & church

#3 We should look within ourselves now

1 Corinthians 11:28

But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.



Paul did not say that we had to be worthy to partake of the Supper.



Paul says that we should partake in a worthy manner.



If we are to participate in a worthy manner:

➔ We must examine our own hearts

➔ See if there is any unconfessed sin in our lives.

➔ Confess those sins to the Lord.

Lesson #7



What does communion picture?



Who should take communion? Who should not take communion?



What does communion do for a person?



Why does a believer take communion many times?



How would you explain communion to a person who has recently accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour?

