

Remembrance

A CLOSER LOOK

AT COMMUNION

Thanksgiving

Fellowship

Message Series
6/22, 6/29, & 7/6



The Communion/ Fellowship of the Body of Christ

Communion/ The Eucharist – What we've learned...

The Greek word koinonia means fellowship, sharing, or communion.

Eucharist is from the Greek words eucharistia (meaning thanksgiving) and eucharisteo (meaning to give thanks, to have gratitude).

Our spiritual sustenance is from living on and obeying the word of God.

Jesus confirms that true faith is the "work" that God requires.

Jesus used symbolic imagery in His ministry: "Tear down this temple...", "Whoever drinks of the water I give him...", "My food is to do the will...", "I am the door", "I am the vine...", "I am the bread of life..."

When Jesus introduced the observance of communion it was after the Passover meal and included fellowship, thanksgiving and remembrance.

1 Corinthians 10:16-21 (LSB) ¹⁶ Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

¹⁸ Look at the nation Israel. Are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar? ¹⁹ What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ *No*, but *I say* that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they SACRIFICE TO DEMONS AND NOT TO GOD.

And I do not want you to become sharers in demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

Do we realize that in sharing in communion, it is not an individual proclamation, but a unified proclamation of being of Christ's Body?

1 Corinthians 11:17-22 (CSB) ¹⁷ Now in giving this instruction I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For to begin with, I hear that when you come together as a church there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ Indeed, it is necessary that there be factions among you, so that those who are approved may be recognized among you. ²⁰ When you come together, then, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For at the meal, each one eats his own supper. So one person is hungry while another gets drunk! ²² Don't you have homes in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I do not praise you in this matter!

An important aspect of communion is considering others in the body of Christ. How can we make communion less individualistic?

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV) ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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 also he took the cup, 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.

Paul is indicating that he received this instruction directly from the Lord Jesus, not from others

It's clear from Paul's writing that Luke received the details of the Last Supper from Paul's direction as this language is repeated in Luke's Gospel. This observance continues UNTIL He returns

This is to remember Jesus' sacrifice for our sins and for the grace that unifies us as one body in the Holy Spirit

How can *we* better proclaim Jesus' death until He comes?

1 Corinthians 11:27-34a (NASB₂₀₂₀) ²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy way, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But a person must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

²⁹ For the one who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not *properly* recognize the body. ³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number are asleep. 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. ³³ So then, my brothers *and sisters*, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, have him eat at home, so that you do not come together for judgment.

Philippians 2:3 (ESV) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Hebrews 10:24-29 (NKJV) ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. ²⁶ For if we sin

willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Do you know that Christ's blood has unified us at great cost? Will you honor His sacrifice in fellowship, thanksgiving, & remembrance?