

**This msg** is **PART** of our “**Bait of Satan**” series  
but this one **IS NOT following** the **book** – by that **name**

**Today** is **Communion Sunday**

So - **I thought** we'd **dig** into  
this **topic** of **Offense** - **as it relates to Communion**

**Communion** is a **Wonderful, Glorious, Beautiful** thing  
for us to **EMBRACE** - and be **in AWE of**

**AND** - **Contrasting Offense AND Communion**

**AND** **Looking at the Possibility of Offense IN Communion**

Is a **great way** for us to **continue learning**  
how to **AVOID** “**Taking the Bait of Satan**” in **OFFENSE**

**Let's Pray**

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**Jesus** instituted **Communion** at the **Last Supper**  
**on the night before** his **death**

**Communion** was a **PART OF** the **Last Supper** -  
it **came** at the **END OF** the **Last Supper**

& **One Thing** for **SURE** –  
**That First** Communion “**Put on Display**”

**Was** The UNITY & SHARING of LIFE  
of EACH of the Disciples With JESUS

& The UNITY & SHARING of LIFE  
the Disciples had with each other – THRU the Life of Jesus

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**Let's start by reading** thru  
the institution of Communion By Jesus

**Matthew 26:26–29 (NLT)**

*26 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body."*

*27 And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it,*

*28 for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant (new) between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many. (meaning all who would receive it)*

*29 Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom."*

**There** is Such HUGE Significance in this ACT

**that** it has become ONE of only TWO Sacraments in the Church –  
(with BAPTISM being the other one)

& BOTH – Communion & Baptism – are SO SIGNIFICANT  
because they are BOTH described as the VISIBLE GOSPEL

**Meaning** - The Gospel Message is "Put on Display" –  
it is DRAMATIZED - in BOTH of these Sacraments

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## Communion - Is The Visible Gospel

### Communion puts ON DISPLAY

Our SHARING IN the Very Life of Jesus  
AND Our SHARING IN His Payment for our sins

### Communion puts ON DISPLAY

Our UNITY (Oneness) –  
with the Life, Death, & Resurrection of Jesus

### & Communion puts on DISPLAY

what UNITES us - as the BODY of Christ

### Because we have been MADE ONE

by our Common SHARING – in the LIFE of JESUS

### SHARING in the LIFE of Jesus – BOTH

UNITES us to Jesus – & - UNITES us to One Another

### & THAT is what the Act of Communion Puts on Display

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The Biblical concept of KOINONIA  
plays a huge roll

in BOTH - the Communion MEAL  
AND the Sacrament of COMMUNION

The GREEK Word - KOINONIA

is most often Translated FELLOWSHIP in the Bible

**BUT** – The meaning of Koinonia – Also includes  
Sharing in Common, & Communion.”

As in COMMUNING with God  
& COMMUNING With One Another

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In **1 COR 10** – We are clearly instructed TO COMMUNE with Jesus  
and NOT TO COMMUNE with the Demonic spirits  
that are behind IDOL Worship

### **1 Corinthians 10:16 (NLT)**

***16 When we bless the cup at the Lord’s Table, aren’t we sharing (Koinonia, sharing in common) in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren’t we sharing (Koinonia, sharing in common) in the body of Christ?***

The CONTEXT of **1 Cor 10** – is actually an Awesome example  
of how to AVOID causing OFFENSE in the church

**But** – For Time’s Sake  
We’ll have to Save that for another Day

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**& so, the ACT of Communion**

Is Us Sharing in the Life of Jesus

& Us Sharing the Life of Jesus in Common - with one another

**& so (obviously) – the words DISCORD, DIVISION, & OFFENSE**

Are 180 Degrees OPPOSITE

of EVERYTHING Communion is meant to convey By God

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**WITHIN Good Bible believing churches - There are many different VIEWS on the How's & When's & Who's of Communion**

But - **Isn't it interesting –  
how all these different VIEWS on Communion**

**Tend to cause more DIVISION & OFFENSE  
than they cause UNITY? – (When Communion is all about UNITY?)**

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So – **Let's look at how we can AVOID  
BRINGING OFFENSE - INTO COMMUNION**

In **1 COR CH 11 – Paul is addressing  
Instructions For Public Worship**

**& we'll pick it up in - 1 Corinthians 11:17-18 (NLT)**

***17 But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together.*** (this can totally be true in church)

***18 First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it.***

**Paul's beginning most awesome display of UNITY & ONENESS  
BOTH with The Lord & with Each Other – being Communion**

& he **starts** with this **unbelievable statement** – that **instead** of coming **together** in **UNITY** and **COMMON GOOD** – **Paul** says

***I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church*** – (there's our **1<sup>st</sup> sign** of **Offense in Communion**)

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**& then we read in - 1 Corinthians 11:19 (NLT)**

***19 But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized!***

**I LOVE the ESV's Translation here**

**1 Corinthians 11:19 (ESV)**

***19 for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.***

**MEANING – those who are Genuine will NOT BE INVOLVED in the divisions and factions in the church - (I love that)**

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**& So – Paul comes to THIS conclusion**

**1 Corinthians 11:20 (NLT)**

***20 When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper.*** (those are pretty hard words)

This "Lord's Supper" is what the "Last Supper" was – It came BEFORE Communion – Which was at the END of this Meal

**This MEAL became known as the AGAPE Feast – & it was meant to SHARE LIFE & COMMUNION in the church**

But – Vs.20 says - some are coming – NOT INTERESTED in the REAL MEANING or PURPOSE of this Communion MEAL

**THESE are the people who are causing – Offense IN Communion**

## **1 Corinthians 11:21 (NLT)**

***21 For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others. As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk.***

The **Communion meal** was about **KOINONIA**

It **was** about **Sharing Life in Common** – **WITH One another**

It was **NOT** about **Gluttony**, & **Drinking**,

& **getting** the **BEST food** before **anyone else** could

## **& so - 1 Corinthians 11:22 says (NLT)**

***22 What? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church*** (bring offense) ***and shame the poor?*** (do you really WANT to offend others) ***What am I supposed to say? Do you want me to praise you? Well, I certainly will not praise you for this!***

**Paul** is **LIGHTING** The **Corinthian** church **UP** –

For **bringing OFFENSE** – **INTO** the **Communion MEAL**

**BY** being **ONLY Interested** in **THEMSELVES**

& their **DESIRES** - & their **DIVISIONS** - & their **FACTIONS**

& **NOT being interested** at **all**

The **MEANING & PURPOSE** of the **Communion Meal**

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& **so then** – we **get** to the **famous Communion Passage**

Where **Paul** is **REMINDING** this **Self-Centered church**

**WHAT** **Jesus** **instituted** **Communion AS**

## **1 Corinthians 11:23-24 (NLT)**

***23 For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread  
24 and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”***

**Paul is saying – Remember WHAT Jesus said  
ABOUT Communion**

**Remember WHY Jesus GAVE his Life for us**

**& Remember that WE SHARE  
IN The LIFE of the Lord Jesus**

**& WE SHARE the Life of the Lord Jesus  
WITH one another**

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## **& then – in 1 Corinthians 11:25 (NLT)**

***25 In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.”***

**Remember - This is about SHARING IN  
The Life of Jesus, that was POURED OUT for us**

**& SHARING IN the New Covenant of Salvation  
between God & His People**

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& Paul is saying Remember, Remember, Remember  
WHAT the Communion Meal & the ACT of Communion is ABOUT

It is a SOLEMN Display – of WHAT it COST Jesus Christ

To SAVE US from our sins - &

For us to be able to COMMUNE with him - in a Real Relationship

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AND – Communion is a VISUAL GOSPEL to those around you

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NLT)

*26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing (proclaiming) the Lord's death until he comes again.*

Communion is the ACTING OUT

of the Wonderful Plan of Salvation – Every time we do it

& when we take communion – we are Announcing our UNION  
with Jesus – And with ONE ANOTHER as Believers

& All of THAT – is what makes Communion - SO AWESOME !!!

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So Then – WHO is bringing OFFENSE INTO COMMUNION??

1 Corinthians 11:27 (NLT)

*27 So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.*

WHOA - THAT is Definitely an OFFENSE

To those in the Church – AND to Jesus

So, what does this word UNWORTHILY - Mean?

Well – First – The Context here - is Directed at BELIEVERS

UNBELIEVERS are NOT the Primary Context

Tho there is certainly application to Unbeliever's here as well

The Word - UNWORTHILY is an ADVERB –

It DESCRIBES HOW you are Partaking of Communion

Remember – the CONTEXT is BELIEVERS coming to the  
Communion Meal with Divisions - & Factions - & Self-Interest

Coming to the Communion MEAL

with NO thought of Sharing in the Life of Christ

OR Sharing the Life of Christ with Others

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& So 1 Corinthians 11:28 (NLT)

*28 That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup.*

BEFORE taking Communion

JUST . . . Slow Down – Take a Minute - & Examine Yourself

BEFORE taking Communion

Slow Down - & DEAL with God for a *minute*

BEFORE you TAKE PART - in this Solemn & Significant Act

TAKE a MINUTE – TO Examine Yourself & Deal with God

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& then comes – THE HAMMER

Which clearly IMPLIES the seriousness of Communion

### 1 Corinthians 11:29 (NLT)

*29 For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself.*

WHOA!! - - & Again, the CONTEXT here

is BELIEVERS – or at least - "Assumed Believers"

& the Scholars Are in AGREEMENT here

the Judgement here is NOT REFERRING to

a Believer LOSING their Salvation

But INSTEAD – This Judgment is referring to

God's Disciplinary Judgment – (which I'd rather avoid as well)

Paul is talking about Believers

coming to this Solemn Communion Act

WITHOUT Examining their OWN Heart & OWN Lives before God

& Thereby – DISHONORING the Lord

By just "Going Thru The Motions"

### Psalm 86:15 says (NLT)

*15 But you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.*

THAT is SO TRUE of God

**HE IS a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness**

**AND . . . . Living in a Life of Sin - HAS Consequences  
Including For Believers**

& some of those consequences are SERIOUS

**As the next vs says - 1 Corinthians 11:30 (NLT)  
30 That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.**

**WHAT??? – YEAH -  
BUT??? - HOW do you EXPLAIN this Vs?**

**I think – the BEST way to Explain it is**

**We should probably Approach  
COMMUNING with the LORD**

**AND our COMMUNING with other believers  
MORE SERIOUSLY**

**Remember – the CONTEXT here**

**Is BELIEVERS - Causing OFFENSE to other Believers  
AND thereby OFFENSE to the Lord . . .**

**BY HOW they APPROACH the Communion Meal  
And the Sacrament of Communion**

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**The GOOD NEWS is in 1 Corinthians 11:31 (NLT)**

***31 But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way.***

**WHEW!! – There's the ANSWER**

**EXAMINE Yourself –**

so **you** will **NOT be Judged** by **God** in this Way

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**& then – there is MORE Good News**

**THIS Judgment of God - IS DISCIPLINE  
SO THAT we will NOT Be Condemned**

**THIS Judgment of God - is INTENDED  
to DRAW US BACK to HIM**

**As 1 Corinthians 11:32 says (NLT)**

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

**THAT is ACTUALLY – Really GOOD NEWS**

**King David says in Psalm 32:3–4 (NLT)**

***3 When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long.***

***4 Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.***

**That is the kind of judgment Paul is talking about in 1 Cor 11  
God's Hand of Discipline Heavy Upon us**

& then – King David says in the Next Vs's

**Psalm 32:5-6 (NLT)**

*5 Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.*

*6 Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time . . .*

**There is STILL TIME !**

**There is STILL TIME for US - TODAY**

& we are about to **TAKE THE TIME**

to get our hearts right – **BEFORE** we **Take Communion**

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**FINALLY – in 1 Cor 11**

**Paul RETURNS** to the **ORIGINAL Subject**

To **CONFIRM** he is **STILL** in the **SAME CONTEXT**

**1 Corinthians 11:33-34(a) (NLT)**

*33 So, my dear brothers and sisters, when you gather for the Lord's Supper, wait for each other.*

*34 If you are really hungry, eat at home so you won't bring judgment upon yourselves when you meet together . . .*

**WHOA !!** – **ALL** of this - **Really IS About**

**HOW** we **APPROACH** The **COMMUNION Meal**

& **HOW** we **APPROACH**

**SHARING IN** the **Life of Jesus** - **IN Communion**

Guys - The MEANING - & the SIGNIFICANCE of Communion  
Is SO BIG

That we MUST – Take a Minute

to EXAMINE ourselves

to Get out HEART RIGHT

to Truly DEAL WITH GOD

BEFORE we Take Communion

Let's Do that NOW

Let's Pray

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