

Genuine Community

The Trinity and the Table

The Trinity

1. God is love » God is a “community of persons”
2. Infinite relation of perfect love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
3. Love is the fountain and the goal of everything in the Christian faith
 - a. For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

The Communion Table

1. Hebrews 12:18-22

¹⁸ For you have not come to *a mountain* that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, ¹⁹ and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which *was such that* those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not bear what was being commanded, “IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED.” ²¹ And so terrible was what appeared, *that* Moses said, “I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling.” ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

- a. Hebrews – warning of apostasy for Jewish Christians who are tempted to fall away (Matt 24).
- b. The Hebrews could touch/ascend Mt. Sinai » In Christ we can, and not die.
- c. Hebrews is all about the superiority of Jesus (angels, high priesthood, sanctuary).
- d. In the New Covenant, all believers have full access to the true sanctuary.
- e. So...“hold fast”, “assemble”, models of faith (ch. 11 – Patriarchs, Moses, etc)
- f. Ch. 12 – expansion of liturgy » All life is embraced » privileges expanded
- g. We approach true Mt. Zion » enter into great host/community

2. Hebrews 13:10-16

¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no authority to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest *as an offering* for sin, are burned outside the camp. ¹² Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³ So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. ¹⁴ For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking *the one* to come. ¹⁵ Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess His name. ¹⁶ And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

- a. We have a priestly service to God » Offer praise to God (with Jesus).
- b. Based on the work of Christ, we have communion with God in peace.
- c. This alone is the ground from which we can have peace with each other

3. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

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.

- a. Our union with Christ is shown in our union with each other.
 - b. We are able to have genuine community only so far as we reflect on Christ.
4. Christ's sacrifice is the center of The Kingdom
- a. Sacrifice is the center of all civilization (Pagan, Christian, or apostate/secular).
 - b. Constantine put an end to pagan sacrifice and Rome was fundamentally altered.

Alternatives?

- 1. False community build around something other than Christ's sacrifice and example.
 - a. They cannot have life in themselves (as Christ does)
 - b. Therefore they breed death (at a faster or slower rate).

How?

- 1. Worship together
- 2. Feast, sing, pray together » River flows out from God's house into our houses.
- 3. "Honest and unguarded" – Telling the truth.
- 4. Service to others » outward orientation