

TRUE IDENTITY *I have called you by your name. You are mine.*

## April 11 – Common–Union

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-25 (NLT)

*On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread <sup>24</sup> 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.” <sup>25</sup> 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.”*

We are blood related!

Jesus said that the cup is *“the new covenant [**contract by a single source promised**] between God and His people – an agreement confirmed with my [Jesus’] blood.”*

Our identity has changed.

- We are no longer in agreement with our sin nature.
- We are no longer “in-slaved” to the sin that makes us like every other person on earth.

And the good part is the “we” part!

**We** are connected to each other through the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ – once we have surrendered to His call on our hearts.

What connects us?

Jesus gave us two sacred gifts:

- A common Image – the **Lord’s supper**, and
- A shared experience – **baptism**.

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We are bonded through these two gifts passed down to the church – God’s people!

These are shared, sacred gifts from Jesus to bond us to Him and to each other!

**We share a common image (which serves as a reminder):**

### THE LORD’S SUPPER

*“On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread<sup>24</sup> 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.”<sup>25</sup> 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.<sup>26</sup> For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.”* **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

Jesus calls us together to share an intimate, sacred moment, much like the disciples did with Jesus in a private setting the night before His death.

Jesus introduced an image that will stay with His followers throughout all time – the bread and the cup.

- He took **some BREAD**
- He **blessed** the bread
- He broke it into pieces – **for all to share**
- He **identified with** the bread
- He **shared it** with His followers (*“gave it to His disciples”* **Matt. 26:26**)
- He **commanded us** to remember the significance of the bread
  
- He **took the CUP** *“in the same way”*
- [He **blessed it**]
- [He passed to each one] – **for all to share** (*“drink from it, all of you”* **Matt. 26:27**)

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- He **identified with** the cup – His blood – a new covenant between God and His people confirmed by Jesus’ blood (*“which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins”* **Matt. 26:28**)
- He **commanded us** to remember the significance of the cup

**With this image we share a common sacred reminder – to announce His death.**

- Share as a church about the Lord’s death
  - *“every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you are announcing the Lord’s death until He comes.”*

The first church practiced this sacred time together often (Acts 2:42, 46), and has been practiced down through the ages of the church.

### **Our shared experience:**

#### **BAPTISM**

Baptism is a Greek word, *baptizo*, which has no true English translation so, we have transliterated it with an English spelling from its origin. Its definition means “to dip, immerse, go under” (Webster’s).

The Hellenistic, or Greek culture occasionally used this word to describe a sinking ship, or a person drowning – literally, *“perishing by submersion.”*

Being completely covered in the death of Jesus sets us up for the greatest miracle to take place in our mortal life – emerging with a spiritual aliveness!

#### **We, as believers share the experience of Baptism!**

It symbolizes that we all have a new life that has emerged from the lifeless state of our unholy spirit within.

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Our old lives were destined for eternal damnation – deprived of any potential righteousness.

Together we claim David's confession, "*I was born a sinner...*" Psalm 51:5

### **Romans 7:18-19**

Paul admitted, "*I know nothing good lives in ...my sin nature. I want to do good, but I can't. I don't want to do what's wrong, but I do it anyway.*"

**Romans 3:23** "*Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*"

What is the standard we all are trying to achieve?

## GOD'S HOLINESS

<sup>4</sup> *Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.*" Revelation 15:4

God is Holy because He is purely and completely right and good. The lofty Standard of perfection of which no other being – especially mankind – can match or attain.

And yet, we are all called to be holy like God, set apart from the standard of the world into a relationship with God! (Leviticus 19:2). Peter said it this way:

<sup>15</sup> *But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;* <sup>16</sup> *for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."* **1 Peter 1:15-16**

So how do we befriend God and become His children if we cannot match His standard?

We needed a miracle!

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- We needed **someone who is qualified** – who as a human being, can perfectly live up to God’s standard:
- **Someone** who, while capable of sinning, **does not sin.**
- **Someone** who is willing to be the sacrifice for all of humanity – and **take our punishment for us.**

Who is that person?

And why would that person love us enough to die for us?

**That person is:**

**JESUS**

**Romans 7:25** *“Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So, you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.”*

Jesus is that man: perfect, capable of sinning yet refused to take part in it and loving us beyond our imagination.

Loving the entire world for all time so much so that He suffered and died for the sins that He had not committed, so that we **all** could be in relationship with our Holy God and Father.

**We share in the death of Jesus:**

Paul said, <sup>20</sup> *“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* **Galatians 2:20**

**We share in the resurrection of Jesus:**

**Romans 6:4** *“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”*

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Through the power of Jesus' resurrection, we all now have a new life that has emerged from the lifeless state of our unholy spirit within.

If you have never received Christ Jesus as your true friend, your instructor and guide through life, then know this – YOU CAN BE A CHILD OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!

Surrender to His love and receive the joy of your salvation from sin and ultimate spiritual death. Believe that He died for your sins and has given you the power of His Holy Spirit to live a new life in Jesus' care.

As believers and followers of Jesus, we are united to God and to each other through our common gift of the image of His death and through our baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.