

# The Core of Christian Communion

## 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

### I. Intro

- Anecdote

- Communion

- When it comes to Christian Communion - there are many who are completely confused about this controversial ceremony.
- And one reason why is because - there are different beliefs - and traditions concerning the right way to engage in this sacred sacrament.
- For example - those who were raised in the Roman Catholic Church were taught to believe that...
  - ...the Lord Jesus continues to suffer for our sins - as the unleavened bread is transfigured into the literal body of Jesus...
  - ...and the wine is transfigured into the literal blood of Jesus.
    - And while the bread still tastes like bread - and the wine still tastes like wine...
      - ...the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church assure us that - Jesus is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine.
- Luther
  - Then there are those who were raised in the Lutheran church - where leaders teach the sacramental union of communion.
  - And while it's true that Martin Luther rejected the Roman Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation...

- ...it's also true that he embraced the belief that has come to be known as Consubstantiation.
- Simply put - Luther taught that Christ's true body and blood are present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Eucharist.
  - And in this way - he affirmed the real - physical presence of Jesus' true body and blood...
    - ...without changing the elements' substance - OR merely symbolizing them.
- Reformed
  - Those who were raised in a reformed church were taught to believe that Christ Jesus is spiritually present in the Eucharistic elements.
    - This doctrine - which was introduced by John Calvin - is based on the belief that...
      - ...Christ Jesus is present - in a special spiritual way - but is not present in any physical way.
      - And while it's true that Calvin rejected the idea of a physical change to the bread and the wine...
        - ...it's also true that he also rejected the belief that the Eucharist was simply a sacrament of remembrance.
- Memorial
  - Then there are those who insist that the sacred sacrament of Communion is strictly symbolic....
    - ...according to the arguments - presented by a Swiss theologian named Ulrich Zwingli
      - Zwingli's position - which is presented in many Baptist churches - as well as most non-denominational churches...

- ...is based on the belief that - communion is a sacrament - that is designed to memorialize the cross of Christ.
- And being that the Lord Jesus finished the work - necessary for our salvation...
- ...He encouraged His disciples to memorialize His sacrifice - with the symbolic sacrament of Communion.

## II. Outline

### ● Points

- Core
- Now - as we consider these four different doctrines that claim to be the core of Christian communion...
- ...it's no wonder why there are so many who are confused about this sacred sacrament.
- That being the case - it's my prayer that this study today - will help clear up the confusion.
- And as we study these scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
  1. ...the Core of Christian Communion is the Blood of Jesus
  2. ...the Core of Christian Communion is the Body of Jesus
  3. ...the Core of Christian Communion is the Bond of Jesus
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 10...
- ...where we find Paul - helping his audience to understand the core of our Christian communion.

### III. Blood

#### ● Set up

#### • Context

- As we make our way to the tenth chapter of 1st Corinthians - we should take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- It'll first help you to remember that - Paul was addressing the questions previously presented by the Christians in Corinth.
- This included their questions - and concerns about eating meat that had been offered to idols.
- And being that the original recipients of this epistle were apparently dividing over this issue...
- ...Paul took the time to remind them our communion in Christ - is more important than anything that might divide us.
- With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians chapter 10.
  - Look with me - beginning there at verse 16 - where Paul declared...

#### ● Text

1Co 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

1Co 10:17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

#### • Communion

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand the core of Christian communion.

- And just to be clear - it'll help you to know that - the Greek word which was rendered - communion...
- ...was used in reference to the intimate fellowship of friendship - as well as the joint participation that proves our companionship.
- And while the Greek word - Koinōnia - is often time used in reference to the sacrament of communion...
  - ...it's also a word which was used of the communion that we enjoy within our Christian community.
- Fellowship
  - For example - it was back in the first chapter of this same epistle - where Paul used this same word - by declaring...
 

1Co 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship (Koinōnia) of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
  - Here in this verse - we learn that the communion of Koinōnia is the fellowship that we have in Christ Jesus.
  - And what this means is that - the core of Christian communion is found the fellowship that we have...
    - ...as we gather together to worship - and serve our Savior - Jesus.
    - Not only that - but the core of Christian communion is also grounded in the gospel message of our Messiah...
      - ...which is based on the blood that was shed for our sins.
- Blood
  - Let's consider again how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 10 - look with me again there at verse 16 - where Paul declared...

1Co 10:16a The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?

- Now - I wanna stop right here - so that we can consider what Paul meant...
- ...when he referred to the blood - by which we enter into communion with Christ Jesus.
- Paul was clearly referring to the blood of the Lord Jesus - which was shed for our sins - when He died upon the cross.
- I like the way that the Lord Jesus explained it during the last supper - when He informed His disciples that...
  - ...the cup of blessing was symbolic of the blood which was shed for the remission of sins.
- Drink
- Let's consider how He put - in Matthew chapter 26 - it's beginning at verse 27 - where the apostle Matthew tells us that Jesus...

Mat 26:27 ...took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

Mat 26:28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Mat 26:29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - using the fruit of the vine - as a symbol of the blood of the new covenant.
- And while the leaders of the Roman Catholic church try to convince us that their communion cup actually contains the literal blood of Jesus...
  - ...we can be certain that the fruit of the vine found in every communion cup - is only symbolic of the blood - by which we are saved.

- And the proof of my point is found in the fact that - the Lord Jesus was the One Who assured His disciples that...
  - ...they were actually drinking the fruit of the vine - which was also known as the blood of the grape.
- Passover
  - It's also important to note that - this cup that contained the fruit of the vine was part of the traditional Passover meal...
    - ...which was consumed by the Jews - in preparation for the annual feast of unleavened bread.
    - And according to Matthew - Mark - and Luke - the Last Supper was actually a Passover meal...
      - ...which the apostles prepared - on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
      - And what this means is that - the cup that contained the blood of the grape...
        - ...was actually a cup which was used to commemorate the blood of the first Passover Lambs.
- Dots
  - With this as our focus - hold your place - here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Exodus chapter 12.
  - And as we make our way to the twelfth chapter of Exodus - I should remind you that...
    - ...the sacred sacrament of Christian communion is based on the Last Supper of our Savior Jesus.

- And the Last Supper of our Savior Jesus - was based on the annual Passover celebration...
- ...which is a commemoration of the night - when the Lord freed the children of Israel - from their Egyptian captivity.
- What this means is that - the communion cup commemorates the blood of the Passover Lamb.

- Passover

- With this as our focus - let's consider the instructions that the Lord presented to Moses - here in Exodus chapter 12.
- Look with me - beginning there at verse 3 - where the Lord directed Moses - by declaring...

Exo 12:3 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

Exo 12:4 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

Exo 12:5 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

Exo 12:6 'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.

Exo 12:7 'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord - preparing the children of Israel - for the punishment of 10th plague.
- And in order to avoid this punishment - the people were instructed to sacrifice an unblemished lamb at twilight - on the 14th day of Nisan.
- Then - after the lamb was sacrificed - the people of faith were directed to apply the blood of the Lamb...

- ...to the doorframe of their homes - as a sign of their faith in the One Who was preparing to free them from their Egyptian captivity.
- And it's here in this same chapter - where the Lord explained how they were supposed to apply the blood of the Lamb.
- Strike
- Look with me again - there at Exodus chapter 12 - I wanna draw your attention to verse 21 - where we learn that...

Exo 12:21 ...Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb.

Exo 12:22 "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

Exo 12:23 "For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

- Here in these verses - we find Moses - encouraging the Israelites to use an aromatic plant known as hyssop...
- ...as a vehicle for applying the blood of the Passover Lamb - to the lintel and the two doorposts of their homes.
- Then - as the Lord poured out the 10th plague - upon the land of Egypt...
- ...the destroyer would Passover every house - where the blood of the Lamb was found on the doorframes.
- And in this way - the children of Israel were set free - from their Egyptian captivity.

- Memorial
- The Lord also instructed the Israelite to memorialize this event - by observing an annual feast.
- Look with me again - here at Exodus chapter 12 - beginning there at verse 13 - the Lord declared...

Exo 12:13 'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Exo 12:14 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

- It was after the Exodus from Egypt - once they entered the land of promise...
  - ...when the Children of Israel began to memorialize the first Passover - with an annual feast in Jerusalem.
  - And as we consider the religious rites and ceremonies surrounding the Passover Seder...
    - ...we can see how the blood of the Lamb - which was initially applied to the doorframe of the house...
      - ...was memorialized with the symbolic cup - that contained the blood of the grape - otherwise known as the fruit of the vine.
- Jesus
  - And listen - the cup of blessing that contained the blood of the grape was not only symbolic of the first Passover lamb - but...
  - ...the cup that contained the blood of the grape - was also symbolic of the blood that was shed — when Christ Jesus became our Passover Lamb.

- In order to prove my point - let's consider how the apostle Peter put it - in his first epistle.
- And so - continue holding your place - there in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to 1st Peter chapter 1...
- ...and as we make our way to the first chapter of 1st Peter - I wanna take a moment to remind you that...
- ...it was John the Baptist - Who first identified the Lord Jesus - as the Lamb of God - Who takes away the sin of the world.
- And it's here in 1st Peter chapter 1 - where we find the apostle Peter - confirming this incredible truth.

#### ● Application

- Lamb

- Look with me - beginning there at verse 18 - where Peter declared...

1Pe 1:18 ...you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

1Pe 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1Pe 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

1Pe 1:21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1Pe 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart

- Here in these verses - we find the apostle Peter - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...the Lord Jesus is our Passover Lamb - Who offered Himself - without blemish and without spot.

- And now that Christ Jesus has fulfilled this prophetic purpose of the Passover Lamb...
- ...we can now rejoice in knowing that those who trust in Jesus - have been Redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb.
- And in this way - the blood of Jesus Christ has become the core of our Christian communion.

- Blessing

- With this as our focus - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 10 - and let's take another look - there at verse 16 - where Paul asked...

1Co 10:16a The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?

- In other words - when the pastor blesses the cup at the Lord's supper...
  - ...he's reminding the congregation that the cup that contains the fruit of the vine...
  - ...is a sacramental reminder that the core of our communion is found in the blood of Jesus Christ.
  - And while it's true that the blood of the grape found in the communion cup - points us back to the first Passover Lamb...
    - ...it's also true that the communion cup is also symbolic of the precious blood that has cleansed us from the stain of our sin.

- Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...

1. ...the Core of Christian Communion is not only found in the Blood of Jesus Christ...
2. ...but - the Core of Christian Communion is also found in the Body of Jesus Christ.
  - And with this as our focus - let's turn our attention back to the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians 10.
  - Look with me - beginning again - there at verse 16 - where Paul declared...

#### IV. Body

- Text

1Co 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

- Body
  - Here in the second half of this verse - we find Paul - reminding the Christians in Corinth...
  - ...that the core of Christian communion - is not only found in the blood of Christ Jesus....
  - ...but - the core of Christian communion - is also found in the body of Christ Jesus.
  - And just like the communion cup that contains the fruit of the vine - that points back to the blood of the Passover Lamb...
  - ...the communion bread which the Lord presented during the last supper...
  - ...was pointing back to Passover meal - which kicked off the 7 day feast of unleavened bread.

- Leaven
  - With this as our focus - let's consider the instructions that the Lord presented to Moses - regarding the feast of unleavened bread.
  - Hold your place - here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - back to the 12th chapter of Exodus.
  - And as we make our way to Exodus chapter 12 - I wanna take a moment to point out that...
    - ...leaven is a living culture of microorganisms that causes the sugars in dough to enter into the process of fermentation...
    - ...thereby releasing the carbon dioxide gas that causes bread rise.
    - Being that this Fermentation is a process of degradation - that breaks down complex organic compounds into simpler substances...
      - ...we shouldn't be surprised to learn that leavened bread is a symbol of sin - in the Bible.

- Feast

- With this in mind - let's consider the instructions that the Lord presented - prior to the first feast of Unleavened Bread.
- Look with me - there at Exodus chapter 12 - let's begin reading there at verse 15 - where the Lord declared...

Exo 12:15 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

Exo 12:16 'On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you.

Exo 12:17 'So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt.

Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.

Exo 12:18 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

Exo 12:19 'For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land.

Exo 12:20 'You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.'

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord - directing the Children of Israel - to keep the feast of unleavened bread for seven days.
- This would begin with the Passover Seder - and then continue for the following six days.
- And what this means is that - the last supper not only included a cup that contained the fruit of the vine...
- ...but they also had unleavened bread - according to the instructions that the Lord presented - here in Exodus chapter 12.
- And much like the cup of blessing - which was a symbol of our Savior's blood - the unleavened bread was a symbol of His body.
- Passover
- In order to prove my point - let's consider how the Lord Jesus explained it - during the last supper.
- With this as our focus - I want you to continue holding your place there in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn to Luke chapter 22.
- And as we make our way to the twenty-second chapter of Luke's gospel account...
- ...I should take a moment to point out that - the last supper not only took place on Passover...

- ...but - Luke also informed us that - this was also the Day of Unleavened Bread - when the Passover must be killed.
- Or in other words - the last supper was observed on the first day - of this seven day feast.

- Body

- With this context in mind - let's consider how the Lord served unleavened bread - to His apostles - during the last supper.
- Look with me - there at Luke chapter 22 - let's begin reading there at verse 15 - where Jesus declared...

Luk 22:15 "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

Luk 22:16 "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Luk 22:17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves;

Luk 22:18 "for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Luk 22:19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - not only serving the fruit of the vine - as a symbol of His blood...
  - ...but - He also served unleavened bread - as a symbol of His body - which was pierced for us - on the cross where He was crucified.
  - And we know that the bread was unleavened - because - according to Luke...
    - ...the last supper took place - on the first Day of Unleavened Bread - which was Passover.

- That being the case - we should take a moment to consider what Jesus meant - when He referred to the bread - as His body.

- Believe

- I like the way that He explained it - in John chapter 6 - it's beginning at verse 47 where he declared...

Jhn 6:47 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

Jhn 6:48 "I am the bread of life.

Jhn 6:49 "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

Jhn 6:50 "This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.

Jhn 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

- Before Jesus identified Himself as the bread of life - He assured His audience that those who believe in Him - HAVE everlasting life.
- In other words - whatever Jesus meant - when He identified Himself as the living bread which came down from heaven...
- ...what we can say for sure is this - - that the sacred sacrament of communion is NOT NECESSARY for our Salvation.
- We are saved by faith - in the substitutionary sacrifice of our Savior - Jesus Christ.
- That being the case - the unleavened bread that we consume during communion - is only a symbol of His sacrifice.

- Application

- Rebuke

- In order to prove my point - let's consider how Paul explained it - back in the 5th chapter of 1st Corinthians.

- Continue holding your place - there in chapter 10 - and let's turn to 1st Corinthians chapter 5...
- ...and as we make our way to 1st Corinthians 5 - I wanna take a moment to remind you that...
- ...it's here in this chapter of this epistle - where Paul was rebuking the Christians in Corinth...
  - ...for the way that they failed to practice church discipline - by casting out a Christian - who was engaging in the sin of sexual immorality.
    - And while they truly believed that they were being gracious - to ignore his sexual sin...
    - ...Paul encouraged them to remember the unleavened bread that we consume during the communion feast.
- Purge
  - Look with me - there at 1st Corinthians 5 - beginning at verse 6 - where Paul declared...
 

1Co 5:6      Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

1Co 5:7      Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1Co 5:8      Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
  - Here in these verses - we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Corinth to realize that...
  - ...the unleavened bread that we consume during the communion feast isn't the literal body of Christ.

- No - instead - it's a reminder of the way that the Lord called the children of Israel to purge their homes...
- ...from the leaven that symbolizes the degradation caused by the sins that can corrupt our fellowship of faith.
- And in this way - the unleavened bread - which is a symbol of our Savior's body...
  - ...is also the core of our communion - which is based on the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

#### ● Transition

#### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...
  1. ...the Core of Christian Communion is not only found in the Blood of Jesus Christ...
  2. ...and - the Core of Christian Communion is not only found in the Body of Jesus Christ...
  3. ...but - the Core of Christian Communion is also found in the Bond of Jesus Christ.
- With this as our focus - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 10...
  - ...where we find Paul - elaborating on the bond of communion that we have - in Christ Jesus.
  - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 16 - where Paul declared...

#### V. Bond

#### ● Text

1Co 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

1Co 10:17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

- Fellowship

- Here in verse 17 - we find Paul advancing the point that he was making - about the core of Christian communion.

- And in order to grasp his point - I should take a moment to remind you that the Greek word which was rendered - communion...

- ...was used in reference to the intimate fellowship of friendship — that Christians experience with other believers.

- The same Greek word was used in reference to the joint participation that proves our companionship.

- And while I realize that the word - communion - is commonly used in reference to the Eucharistic sacrament...

- ...Paul was actually using it in reference to the bond of fellowship that we have with other believers.

- One

- In order to make my case - let's consider the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible - rendered verse 17 - they put it like this...

1Co 10:17 Since there is one bread, we [believers] who are many are [united into] one body; for we all partake of the one bread [which represents the body of Christ].

- From this - we can see that the sacred sacrament of communion - is symbolic of the spiritual connection that we have - by faith in Jesus Christ.

- I like the way that Spiros Zodhiates explained it - when he declared...

- “The Lord's Supper should always be an occasion for remembering the unity of the body of Christ.”
- And while it's true that the unleavened bread that we consume - is a symbol of the physical body of Jesus...
  - ...it's also true that the same bread is a symbol of the church - which is the spiritual body of Jesus.

- Body

- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Romans chapter 12 - it's beginning at verse 4 - where he declared...

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- At the very moment of our conversion to Christ - the new-believer has become a member of the church - which is the spiritual body of Christ.
- And while it's true that we've all been called to serve our Savior - according to our individual calling...
  - ...it's also true that we're called function - like members of the same body.
  - I like the way that Paul summed it up - in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 it's verse 27 - where he declared...

1Co 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

- Joined

- We should also consider the bond of our communion - in light of the instructions that Paul presented to the Christians at the church in Ephesus.

- It's in Ephesians chapter 4 - beginning at verse 13 - where Paul encouraged the Christians in Ephesus to...

Eph 4:13 ...come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Eph 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Eph 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
  - ...the unity of our faith should serve as the bond that brings us together - like a body that is functioning correctly.
  - And while it's true that Jesus Christ is the head of His spiritual body...
    - ...it's also true that every local church should function like a body - as every believer joins together to do our part....
    - ...according to the effective working by which every Christian accomplishes our calling in Christ.
- Bond
  - I like the way that Paul put it - in the beginning of the same chapter of Ephesians - where he declared...

Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Eph 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

Eph 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Christian - listen - we've been called to endeavor - or work hard - to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- That word - bond - was used in reference to the ligaments by which the members of the human body are united together.
- Seeing how we are the body of Christ - then - we'll all do well to realize that...
- ...our communion with Christ has become the core of our communion with one another.
- Therefore - the sacred sacrament is symbolic memorial - which should remind us of our the belief that has become our bond.

#### ● Application

- Remember
- Further proof of my point can be found in the next chapter of this epistle - and so - let's flip forward to 1st Corinthians chapter 11.
- I wanna draw your attention to the way that Paul described communion - beginning there at verse 23 - where he declared...

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - reminding his readers - that the Lord Jesus commanded His disciples...

- ...to consume the elements of communion - as a remembrance of His sacrifice.
- Just to be clear -the Greek word which was translated - remembrance - can also be rendered - commemoration - or - memorial.
- In other words - the sacred sacrament of communion is designed to memorialize the sacrifice of our Savior.
- And it's for this reason that Paul went on to refer to the Eucharistic elements - as bread and drink.

- Eat

- Look with me again - there at verse 26 - where Paul declared...

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

- Notice that Paul didn't refer here to the body and blood of Jesus - but rather - the bread - and drink - which implies the fruit of the vine.
- Now - it's here in the same chapter - where Paul goes on to warn us about taking communion - improperly.
- And in the weeks to come - we will study these verses - in order to understand this warning.
- But for now - let it suffice to say that the sacrament of communion is a memorial observance...
  - ...which includes the fruit of the vine - which symbolizes the blood of Jesus - and the unleavened bread - that symbolizes His body.
- Communion
- And while it's true that the symbols of Christ's body - and blood - are designed to remind us about the sacrifice of our Savior...

- ...the Eucharistic elements are also designed to remind us about the bond that we share together - in Christ Jesus.
- And it's for this reason that the sacrament of communion should take place - within the context of our Christian fellowship.
- Now - this is not to suggest that it's sinful to take communion at home.
  - And yet - those who do are failing to realize that communion isn't just about remembering what Jesus has done for us...
  - ...no - instead - the sacrament of communion is designed to remind us about the belief that has become our bond of perfection.
  - And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged us to take communion together - here in our Christian community.

## VI. Conclusion

### ● Wrap up

#### • Points

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - it's my prayer that this study will help you to better understand the core of Christian Communion.
- And with this as the goal - let's take a moment to recap the main points of this message - beginning with the fact that...

#### 1. ...the Core of Christian Communion is the Blood of Jesus Christ.

- And while it's true that Jesus Christ is the Passover lamb - Who's blood was shed for our sins...
- ...it's also true that we've been called to enter into Christian communion...

- ...by consuming the cup that contains the fruit of the vine - which is a symbol of His blood.

## 2. Not only that - but - the Core of Christian Communion is the Body of Jesus Christ.

- And while it's true that the feast of unleavened bread was a symbolic shadow of our Savior's sinless perfection...
- ...it's also true that those who trust in the Lord Jesus have become the spiritual body of Christ.
- Therefore - this sacrament helps us to remember that the core of our communion - in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

## 3. Finally - the Core of Christian Communion is the Bond of Jesus Christ.

- What this means is that - the symbolic sacraments that we consume are designed to memorialize our Messiah's sacrifice.
- And in this way - they also remind us of the belief that has become the bond of our salvation...
- ...by which every believer has become the spiritual body of Jesus Christ.
- To sum it up simply - Jesus is the center of our Christian community - and therefore - He is the core of Christian Communion.