

1Corinthians 11 and John 3

Big Idea: We should examine our intentions before we take communion.

Communion Sunday at Grace

How silly a communion service must look to the skeptic and critic of Christianity. To the Christ-follower however, remembering the death of Jesus Christ is precious. It’s serious business. In fact, we are warned by Paul not to take it lightly (1Corinthians 11:27-29).

Who is Unworthy?

Paul said we should not observe communion if we are unworthy, but who is unworthy? That’s a good question. Biblically there are two kinds of people this applies to...

- 1. Self-motivated child of God – This is a person who possesses authentic faith in Christ but has become self-actuated, self-guided, and self-governed, and self-assured.
2. Lost and apathetic – This person doesn’t care. Faith in Christ isn’t something that frames their thought process, so consequently it has no impact on their life.

The Remedy

The remedy for each is revealed in v.28 – “Everyone ought to examine themselves...” When you examine yourself (your intention) what do you see? The prescription for the first is confession and repentance. The remedy for the lost is authentic faith in Jesus Christ. This is what we will address today from John 3...

“You must be born again...” John 3

This is the premier message of the Gospels and the central teaching of Jesus Christ. How can sinful, lost, misguided humanity reunite with a perfect, loving, holy God? This was the question of a religious man named Nicodemus who came to see Jesus at night. Jesus told him to believe in Him (John 3:16). This involves much more than mere intellectual assent. It calls for whole-hearted commitment of one’s life to Christ. He becomes the premier authority and influencer.

Intellectual Assent

“I will tolerate the message because I don’t have any better answers.” That’s intellectual assent or concurrence. There are those who have failed to engage. Engage Christ and your intentions will change; your life will transform. It is the fundamental nature of the Christian life to bear fruit. If you are not bearing fruit perhaps your belief has not grown into faith (Ephesians 2:10, James 2:17). Mere Intellectual Assent does not produce fruit.

Examine your intention. Are you intentional about Christ? I didn’t ask you if you are perfect, religious, or knowledgeable. I didn’t ask if you pray or if you give. I didn’t ask you if you consider yourself a good person. I’m asking if you intentionally try to live by His standards and not your own? Are you intentional regarding matters of faith?

Family Night – Read John 3:1-21

- Elementary School – Ask, “Who came to see Jesus at night? How can we see God’s kingdom (v.3)? What did Moses lift up to save the people? How do we know that God loves us (v.16)?”
• Middle/ High School – Ask, “Why do you suppose Nicodemus came to Jesus at night? How does Jesus define being “born again”? What makes faith authentic? Why do people prefer darkness over light? What does v.16 say?

Prayer: “Father, we want to see Your kingdom someday, and we believe that Jesus is Your Son. Amen.”

Table with 2 columns and 1 row containing event information: Velocity (Middle and High School Students), Kenya Mission Trip is June 4-14, Summer Camp “Amazonia” June 8-12, and Velocity Rafting Trip is June 22-26.