

Venomoid Communion

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Tony: REAL. Father/Son. Married. Children's.
- B. Slide6 Holocaust Memorial Day: Today at Town Square Park 1-5pm.
- C. Slide7 Noah & Kassie Denny (Ezra, Evelyn): Zambia. *Breath of Heaven*. 1 time gifts needed (15,000)

II. Slide8 Intro: Venomoid Communion

- A. Christianity celebrates 2 Sacraments: [*sacramentum*/something sacred. Orig used for a Roman soldiers *oath of faithfulness* on enlistment. Yearly, a soldier was supposed to return back to Rome to *renew their allegiance*]
 1. 1 Cor.11:27 *as often as you eat this bread & drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*
 2. By eating the bread & drinking the cup we are proclaiming, or giving your oath of faithfulness. *Therefore, it is our confession of loyalty* to Him.
- B. Slide9 Baptism demonstrates our *initial* identification with Christ and His church. The Lord's supper celebrates our *continual* identification with Christ and His church.
- C. This was to be the **most important meal** eaten in the history of the world.
- D. This is a *family* meal **but** it is not secretive. **It is to be done in public.**
 1. It is **not** a secretive, cultic ritual w/magical powers.
 2. **It is a public act of worship** by the gathered church.
 3. It is not about **privacy** **but proclamation**. **So** if you're not a believer but seeking spiritual things this morning, we're glad you're hear, because we want to **proclaim why** we do this meal. [*meal? - its just a lil piece of a cracker & the smallest of cups w/cheap grape juice?* By meal we mean, **not like a physical 7 course meal, but a simple spiritual meal**]
- E. Here Jesus takes a major Jewish celebration, called the **Passover**, one that the Jews had observed each year for **over 1500 years** since the time of Moses, **and converted it** and **elevated it** into what we know now as **communion**.

1. Slide10 (Spurg) *The Jewish Passover was made to melt into the Lord's Supper as the stars of the morning dissolve into the light of the sun.*
2. *The Lord's Supper is the fuller view, the completed view, of redemption.*

III. Slide11 INSTRUCTIONS (17-19)

- A. Jesus was an obedient Jew, who kept the Law & celebrated Passover.
1. Being aware of Judas' plan to betray Him, Jesus kept the place of the meal **secret**. Peter/John didn't even know where it was to be held, **until** they arrived.
 - a) **Don't** get upset at Jesus when He **doesn't** let **you** in on things. He will, when the time is right.
- B. **Note** Jesus was very organized. This wasn't *happening* to him.
1. Instead of **getting** a last meal...He **gave** one.
- C. Slide12 (Mk.14:15) **Furnished & prepared** – *i.e.* spread w/carpets & cushions.
1. **Furnished w/a low table** (U-shaped) by which they would recline.
- D. The meal consisted of **the roasted lamb** (to remind them of *the lambs blood* that was applied to the doorposts in Egypt to keep **the angel of death** from killing their 1st born), **unleavened bread** (to remind them of their **haste** in leaving Egypt), **& the dish of bitter herbs** (to remind them of **suffering** as Pharaoh's slaves), **& 4 cups of diluted wine** (to remind them of the **4 promises** in Ex.6:6,7).

IV. Slide13 INDICTMENT (20-25)

- A. (21) What a shattering announcement - **one of you will betray Me**.
1. **John** says, Jesus **was troubled in spirit**. Jn.13:21
- B. Slide14 (22) **Is it I?** the Gk indicates that a **negative** answer is expected...*Surely, it is not I!*
1. The men that often debated on which one of them was the **greatest**, **now** discussed who was the **vilest**.
 2. They didn't ask, *Is it Judas?* Instead Judas chimed in (last it seems) & *mouthed the words surely not I*, fooling everyone...**but Jesus**.
 - a) Had Jesus pointed out Judas, **Peter** would have had him in a **choke-hold** before you could say the word **traitor**.

- C. In Jn.13:26-30, Jesus actually **gave it to him**, as the host would always do this.
1. It was **an honor** to be given a morsel of bread from your host.
 2. Jesus, giving the bread was **a gracious act of hospitality**; **for** Judas, accepting the bread was **an evil act of treachery**.
- D. **Slide15 (23) Dips w/me in the dish** – In the East, to break bread w/someone means to enter into a pact of friendship & mutual trust.
1. As if to say, *I know what you are going to do. Will you not stop even yet?* *Barclay*
 2. To **break bread, then betray your host**, is the basest of treachery.
 3. Even this was the fulfillment of God's Word, **Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.** Ps.41:9
 4. **Judas may have had the honored position at our Lord's left.**
 - a) Judas was *close* because Jesus was able to hand him the morsel of bread.
 - b) **We know:** **John** was on Jesus' right. Everyone would lean on their left hand, **thus** leaning partially on the person to their left **& then** they would eat w/their rt hand.
 - c) *Thus we have **John** leaning on **Jesus** chest. **And Jesus leaning on...Judas?**
 - (1) **Thus** Judas had the **opportunity** to have **whispered a repentance** at any time during the meal.
 - (2) "Judas, here is my **friendship & forgiveness**...if you take it. **Will you?"**
 - (a) Jn.13:27 **Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him.**
- E. (24) **Had not been born** – **Some say** Judas was just forcing Jesus hand to reveal his power & setting up the kingdom. **Others say**, he was just obeying what God's Word had prophesied of him.
1. **Yet**, Judas was **no martyr nor robot**. He was **neither a hero nor the victim** of some merciless predestination.
 2. **He was a responsible** human being who made his own decisions, **but in so doing, fulfilled the Word of God.** Warren Wiersbe, pg.136.
 - a) **Judas was lost for the same reason millions are lost today: he did not repent** of his sins & **believe** on Jesus Christ, the true Passover Lamb.

- V. Slide16a **INSTITUTION (26-30)** [Lord's Supper. Communion. Lord's Table. Breaking of Bread. Eucharist]
- A. Bread & wine were 2 common items that were used at practically every meal, **but** Jesus gave them *a wonderful new meaning*. **Now** as **memorials of His death**.
1. Every detail of the **Passover** pointed to that great day of Israel's **deliverance** from Egypt. **Now**, Jesus will redirect the details to **Himself** & to **His deliverance of the world** from sin.
 - a) *When you do this again, do it in memory of Me and not of the lamb slain in Egypt.*
 2. This is the Original **Value Meal**...and what a **value** He placed on it :)
- B. Lets look at these 6 things about communion:
- C. Slide17a **It's Historical**: Mt, Mark, Lk, John. From the earliest church records the church started observing this. **Jesus Himself is the origin** of the Lord Supper. **He** commanded that it be continued. **And He is the focus and content of it.**
- D. Slide17b **It's Familial**: The Lord's Supper is an act of *the gathered family* of those who believe in Jesus, the church. **Though it's not an act for unbelievers, they should be present and welcomed.** As I said earlier it is **not** to be secretive. It's about **proclamation** not *privacy*.
- E. Slide17c **It's Physical**: it is not the consumption of a 7 course meal. It is very simple. We should **not use playful substitutes** (i.e. Oreo cookie & Coca-Cola) we should **celebrate it** with a sense of **weightiness**.
- F. Slide18a **Bread**: Note, He didn't take the *Passover Lamb*, **but bread & wine**. Thus He was instituting a **feast, not a sacrifice**.
1. 1 Cor.5:7,8 **For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 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.**
 2. Slide18b **Broke it, gave it to them** – Bread *broken/Christ for us*. Bread *eaten/Christ in us*. Bread *partaken together/Christ among us*.
- G. Slide19 **Cup**: The Passover requires 4 cups of wine (2 before the meal, 2 after) [Ex.6:6,7]
1. The cup of **Sanctification** (*kiddush*) [separation from all other common meals]
 2. The cup of **Deliverance/salvation** (*makkot*) [Del from Egypt. Explaining/ Proclaiming]

3. The cup of **Redemption** (*ha-geulah*) [symbolized blood of passover lamb/**now Jesus'**]

a) **This cup** is the cup of wine lifted at communion, commemorating God's *redemption* of His people. This was **Jesus establishing His New Cov** [*a sacred binding contract*] **in His own blood.**

4. The cup of **Praise/hope/expectation** (*hallel*) [took place during the *hallel*, hymn]

a) **This cup** is the cup of wine that Jesus **refused to drink from** **until** the coming of His Father's Kingdom.

5. Going back to the **The 3rd cup...Redemption...**

a) **Old covenant** (Sinai) ratified w/the blood of animals sacrifices.
New covenant was ratified by His blood.

b) **Slide20a Rattlesnake Communion:** Old Cov *covered* our sin. New Cov *puts it away*

(1) Heb.9:26 **now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**

(2) **Slide20b The Old Law was like** covering a **rattlesnake** w/a trash can lid.
The New Cov is like taking his venom out...he can still bite, **but** it's no longer deadly.

c) A **venomoid** is a venomous snake that has *undergone a surgical procedure* to remove or inhibit the production of snake venom.

(1) **Slide21 It's a Venomoid Communion :)**

6. **Gave thanks** (27) - Thanksgiving is the expression of **Joy** God-ward.

7. **This is My blood** (28) - Biblical covenants were always ratified by **shed blood.**

H. **Slide22a It's Mental:** *Do this in remembrance of me...*Remember what?

1. Normally we celebrate someone's **Birthday** **not** their **Death-day.**

a) **Death-days** are often difficult days to remember.

2. **As we do the physical act of eating and drinking, we are to do the mental active remembering.**

3. **How does the Lord's Supper help us to remember Him?**

- a) It makes us come to a **restful halt** in our pilgrimage. It gives us a **graphic picture** of salvation. It reminds us of the **reassuring promise** of His Grace. It remains **clear prophecy** of the future.
4. Remember what? **that** He truly was a *Good Man, a Great Savior, a Loving Friend, a Living Hope, & a Coming Lord*.
 5. Remember Him in **sickness** **that** you might have patience.
 6. Remember Him in **persecution** **that** you might have gentleness.
 7. Remember Him in your **service** **that** you remember His burning zeal in His.
 8. Remember Him in times of **solitude** **as** you remember His midnight prayers.
 9. Remember Him so He becomes our **pattern** **that** we might be the **reproduction** of Himself, **& thus** become *the best memorial of Him*.
- a) So it's about **Remembering**. Not imagining. Not dreaming. Not channeling. Not listening. Not going into neutral. It's a conscious directing of the mind back in history to Jesus and what He did, in the bible, in history. **Bread and cup. Body and blood. Execution and death.** (Piper)
- I. **Slide22b It's Spiritual:** unbelievers can do everything we've named so far. **Eat, drink, remember.** There must be something **more**. There is. 1 Cor.10:16-18 *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? 17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread. 18 Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices **partakers** of the altar?* [communion = sharing/fellowship/participation/*koinonia*]
1. These believers **trust & treasure** Jesus Christ. Paul says they're *participating* in the body and blood of Christ. They are experiencing a sharing/*koinonia* in His body & blood. They are experiencing a *partnership* in His death, by faith.
 2. As the Jews (18) *shared in* **or benefited from** what happened **on the altar**. **So** we, **enjoy forgiveness and restored fellowship with God** *in communion*.
 3. When we celebrate the Lord supper, we feast **spiritually** by faith on all the promises of God *bought by* the blood of Jesus. **No unbeliever can do that.**
- J. **Slide22c It's Sacred:** believers are warned not to take communion in a *cavalier, callous, or careless way*.

1. Not our goal to exclude anyone. *Each person decides for himself.*
 2. This is not the Episcopal Table, **nor** the Baptist Table, **nor** the Calvary Table, **but the Lord's Table.**
 3. Slide23a Examine yourself. Q: *Can you be more-bad than God is good?* don't think so
 4. You can only **sin** as a man, **but** God can **forgive** as God.
 5. You **sin** as a finite creature **but** the Lord **forgives** as the *infinite Creator*.
 6. **Confess your sin to Him** - *For I will forgive their iniquity, & their sin I will remember no more.* Jer.31:34
- K. Slide23b (29) The supper ends on a note of *Hope*...until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's Kingdom.
1. **Jesus was sure of 2 things:** He was to die **&** His kingdom was to come.
 - a) He was **certain** of **His cross** **&** certain of **His glory**.
 - b) He was **certain** of the **Love of His Father** **&** certain of **man's sin**.
 - c) He was **certain** that in the end **that love** would conquer **sin**.
- L. Do Communion:
- M. In Lk.22:15 Jesus said to his disciples, *With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*
1. He **desired to eat it with them**. Even though His body was about to be broken, His blood shed, His heart grieved. And 1 was about to betray Him, 1 about to deny Him, & all about to forsake Him.
 2. He **desires to eat it with you**. **Even though you've betrayed** Him...& will again. **Even though you've grieved** Him...& will again. **Even though you've broken his heart**...& will again...*He desires to eat with you...oh what a love!*
- N. If you ever feel unworthy to come to His table, then just make sure you bring your **sin** w/ you to the table.
1. **Sin** gives us a right to Christ. He is a Savior **from sin**. It is as **sinners** we can sit at the table to begin with. *Sin is the handle by which I can take hold of Christ.*
- O. *(30) **Sung a hymn** - Imagine the Lord *singing* when **the cross** was only a few hours away
1. Jesus *sings praise* to His Father In the face of **rejection & suffering & death**.