

Sunday September 10, 2023 | The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is to be done in remembrance of Jesus. We are coming together to proclaim Jesus' death until He comes back. It is a time to mediate and focus on what Jesus accomplished through His life and death.

Luke 22:14-23 ESV

(15) And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this **Passover** with you before I suffer.

(16) For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

(17) And He took a **cup**, and **when He had given thanks** He said, "**Take this, and divide it among yourselves.**

(18) For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

(19) And He took **bread**, and **when He had given thanks**, He broke it and **gave it to them**, saying, "This is My body, which is given for you. **Do this in remembrance of Me.**"

(20) And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

As Jesus is celebrating the Passover with His disciples, He teaches them how to take the Lord's Supper. He reaches out the bread and the cup that had been apart of the meal. Notice how He distributes each element. As He took the cup, Jesus stops and prays over it. Then He instructs them to take the cup and divide it among themselves. What is important to see is that each disciple did not reach out for the cup in front of them **but shared in His cup**. In like manner Jesus did the same with the bread. He gave thanks over the bread **then gave it out to them**.

There is only one cup, and it represents Jesus' blood. There is only one bread, and it represents the body of Jesus. There were not many bodies that were righteous just one. There are not many cups of blood that could have been accepted to pay for sin, just the blood of Jesus. As we come together as a church body, **we are drinking from the same cup and eating the same bread this morning**. The practical method we use is not the point. There is an intense fellowship and unity in the Lord's Supper.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 NKJV

(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?**

(17) For we, though many, **are one bread and one body**; for we all partake of that **one bread**.

As we come together to take the cup and the bread we are **in communion** with the blood and body of Jesus. The word that is translated communion is **koinonia**. It means to **have a joint participation with, an intimate fellowship**. It aims to describe an intense close intimacy and fellowship and in Greek writing was used to describe marriage. A Greek doctor wrote this inscription as he reflected on his wife who had also been a doctor "**as with you alone I shared my life.**" He had shared every part of his life even his profession with his wife. The word describes a sharing in purpose and mind. As we take the cup and bread today, we are having intimate fellowship with the body and blood of Jesus.

Our fellowship with the body and blood of Jesus has changed everything about us. Now we have **koinonia fellowship** with all three members of the trinity.

1 John 1:3 ESV

(3) that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; **and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV

(14) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God **and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all.

When a person is saved, they have been given an entirely new spiritual life. Before Christ we all were separated from God. We have no fellowship with Him. Now because of the body and blood of Jesus we have access and fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We went from being alienated from God to being in Him.

John 17:20-21 ESV

(20) "I do not ask for these only, but also **for those who will believe in Me through their word,**
(21) that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, **that they also may be in Us,**
so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

Jesus is praying for you and I specifically. We are the ones who believed through the testimony of the apostles. Jesus prays that just as He and the Father are one, we now can be one with Them. The fellowship we are given access to is incredible. **Jesus desires for our fellowship with God to be like His fellowship with the Father.** This fellowship is deeper than being mere acquaintances or beneficiaries of a gift. We have been adopted.

Galatians 3:26-28 ESV

(26) for in Christ Jesus **you are all sons of God, through faith.**
(27) For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.
(28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

We have been adopted into God's family. We are called sons and daughters of the most high God. The Spirit took us and baptized, **immersed us into Christ.** We have been immersed into Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. We receive this incredible gift through faith by trusting in Him. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper today, **we are proclaiming the fellowship we have been given into the body, and blood of Jesus.** We have been immersed into Him. The fellowship with His blood speaks to the forgiveness of our sins.

Ephesians 1:7-8 ESV

(7) In Him we have redemption **through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,** according to the riches of His grace,
(8) which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

We have forgiveness of sins through His blood. The forgiveness we receive is as deep as the riches of His tremendous grace. There is no end to it. He lavished this grace onto us. **There would be no redemption or forgiveness without the blood of Jesus.** His blood would not have been accepted if it didn't come from His perfect righteous body. Today we are to remember what fellowship with the blood of Jesus accomplishes, our forgiveness. He paid the price. When we have fellowship with His blood everything changes about us. Part of what changes is that now we are given a new unity and fellowship with each other.

Acts 2:42-44 ESV

(42) **And they devoted themselves to** the apostles' **teaching** and **the fellowship**, to **the breaking of bread** and **the prayers**.

(43) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

(44) And all who believed were together **and had all things in common.**

This was immediately after Pentecost; the church had just been started. Notice the list of four things the early church devoted themselves to. **First was the apostles teaching.** They wanted to know more truth and grow and devoted themselves to teaching. The next thing they devoted themselves to was **the fellowship.** This is our word **koinonia.** They devoted themselves to the fellowship that they now had in Jesus. It was not an afterthought or something to be taken lightly. They devoted themselves to fellowship. Verse 44 affirms for us that they had all things in common, because their focus was on Jesus.

The early church also devoted themselves to the **breaking of bread.** This can mean they ate with each other, or it means they practiced the Lord's supper. Most likely it means both. They shared what they had and ate together and took time to focus on what Jesus had accomplished. **Lastly, they prayed.** They wanted to have a close relationship with God and wanted to talk and be in communion with Him. As the church devoted themselves to these four things they stood out from the World. As we walk in our fellowship with Jesus we are going to stand out from what the world does. This is actually the context of our passage. Paul is urging the Corinthian Church to look different from the world because of the fellowship they have in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:13-16 ESV

(13) **No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.** God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, **that you may be able to endure it.**

(14) Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry.**

(15) I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.

(16) **The cup of blessing** that we bless, is it not a **participation** in the blood of Christ? **The bread that we break,** is it not a **participation** in the body of Christ?

It is very encouraging to me that every temptation you and I have ever had or will ever have is not new, different, or surprising to God. They are all common to man and He wants to strengthen us for each one. We have the ability now to flee idolatry.

We have participation in the body and blood of Jesus. We have been immersed in them and have the ability to show that in our life. We are celebrating what Jesus accomplished today. We are celebrating His body and His blood. Our lives should reflect this fellowship we have.

2 Corinthians 6:14 ESV

(14) Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what **fellowship** has light with darkness?

We have been changed as a believer. What fellowship can we truly have with the world anymore? We have spent our morning looking at all the things we have fellowship with because of Jesus, and the world is not one of them.

1 John 1:5-7 ESV

(5) This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, **that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.**

(6) If we say we have **fellowship** with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie **and do not practice the truth.**

(7) But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, **we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

(8) If we say we have **no sin**, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

(9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and **to cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

There are two types of fellowship we have as believers with God. One is who we have been declared to be because of Jesus. We are saved because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross. We are immediately born again. Then there is the fellowship of relationship. We grow in this fellowship over time as we grow closer to Him. John's is not describing salvation here. He wrote His entire gospel to clarify what it means to believe in Jesus. He wrote this letter to:

1 John 5:13 ESV

(13) I write these things **to you who believe** in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know** that you have eternal life.

1 John is written to those who believe in Jesus. John is wanting to help them mature and grow in their walk. To grow in what it means to walk in fellowship with Jesus. As we walk in darkness, in sin, we do not have fellowship with Him. This is why we need to keep confessing our sins, to keep coming back into fellowship with Him.

We are celebrating the body and blood of Jesus today. Our savior is incredible and given us access to amazing fellowship with Him. **We need to keep coming back to the body and blood of Jesus.** We sin and we walk in and out of fellowship with Him. The great news is that our salvation, our position with Him is not based on us. Jesus secured our fellowship with Him on the cross. **Let's walk in the fellowship we have been given access to.** Let's keep confessing our sins and walk close to Him.

We believe in Open communion- If you are a believer here today you are welcome to take communion with us.

If you are not a believer, meaning you have never trusted in Jesus for your salvation, this is not for you. Please believe in Him.

We are going to have a time of reflection

Take this time to confess any sins God convicts you of. He secured for us an incredible fellowship with Him, let's walk in it. We can confess our sins and walk fresh with Him.

His body and His blood, secured our redemption. Take time to meditate on the body and blood and the amazing fellowship it secured. It is not about us, but about what He did. We do this in remembrance of Him.

After the time of reflection, I will lead us as will all partake of the elements together.

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 ESV

(23) For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,

(24) and **when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."**

The Bread Represents the Body- It speaks of who Jesus is- Fully God, Fully man
Pray- Eat the Bread

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 ESV

(25) In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**

The Cup represents the Blood- His blood paid the penalty for our sin
Pray- Drink the Cup

1 Corinthians 11:26 ESV

(26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**

1 John 3:1-3 ESV

(1) See what kind of love the Father has given to us, **that we should be called children of God; and so we are.** The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

(2) Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; **but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him,** because we shall see Him as He is.

(3) **And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.**