



## #4 "We Share In Communion"

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April 24<sup>th</sup> 2016

I love Sundays because we share in communion. There are many names given to the event known as *communion*, *the Lord's Supper*, *the Eucharist*, *breaking of bread*. Church traditions have shaped this event throughout history. In this study we will examine the context in which this event was given to us by studying Exodus 12, Luke 22:7-23 and 1 Corinthians 11:17-33 and a few related scriptures, so that we may develop an appreciation for what Christ has done for us.

1. READ: Exodus 12:1-29
  - a. What is the significance of The Passover in the life of Israel?
  - b. Why were they to eat a Passover meal?
  - c. What were they to tell their children about this feast?
  - d. What do you think are some of interesting instructions Moses gave to the people?
2. READ: John 1:36 and 1 Corinthians 5:7  
According to these verses, who is Jesus?
3. READ: Luke 22:7-13
  - a. What event was Jesus preparing to celebrate with his disciples?
  - b. What two symbols did Jesus use to represent what he was about to do?
  - c. When, in the evening's events, did Jesus do this? (Hint see verse 20)
4. READ: 1 Corinthians 11:17-22
  - a. In the light of your historical knowledge from the previous questions, explain the context in which Paul is writing.
  - b. What is going on here?
  - c. Why do you think Paul is so upset?
  - d. What key element or value of church life do you think is being violated by the Corinthians?
5. READ: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
  - a. In what ways are these verses a statement on church unity?
6. READ: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
  - a. What is the purpose of this event?
  - b. Explain in your own words the simplicity of this historical account of the Last Supper (communion).
  - c. Why do you think Jesus made celebrating this event so simple?
7. READ: 1 Corinthians 11:27-29
  - a. Explain the overall intent of this section of scripture. What is Paul warning us about.
  - b. Thinking about the word 'therefore', what do you think the words 'unworthy manner' mean in this context?

- c. How does partaking of communion in an unworthy manner make us guilty of 'sinning against the body and blood of the Lord' (NIV)
  - d. What are we to do before taking communion?
  - e. What is the result of taking communion without regard to our relationships in the body of Christ?
8. READ: 1 Corinthians 11:30-32
- a. In what specific three ways is does this 'judgment' work itself out in our lives?
  - b. Explain in your own words what happens when we violate the divine order that God has established through Jesus Christ with regards to unity and sin in the body of Christ, the church?
  - c. In what ways does resentment, bitterness, lack of forgiveness, or anger make us sick?
  - d. One of the words used for death in the bible is 'sleep'. How is it possible for the unresolved personal issues in our lives lead us to premature death?
  - e. In light of the above discussion explain how participation in weekly communion can help keep us spiritually and physically healthy.
9. READ: 1 Corinthians 11:33-34
- a. What is the significance of all eating together, or waiting for one another when we participate in communion?
10. Has your thinking changed about communion because of this study? If so please share with your group.

## FOR CONSIDERATION

Who are the people in your life for which you need to begin to deal with interpersonal issues?

What adjustments could you make in the activities of your life to be at communion more often?

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

Please pray for **ASCENT: an Evening of Prayer and Praise**. Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. In this time of spiritual deepening we will pray for our church, the needs of our community, and your needs. We will also be praying for the sick as outlined in the book of James.

Praise God for continuing to provide for our financial needs as we enjoy our new home and mission outpost.

Pray especially for our tech team who are still putting in long hours to create stability and reliability of our internet signals and other technologies.

**Coming on June 15 a special family movie event fun and fellowship for all....more details to follow MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**