

Christian Basics: The Lord's Supper

Lesson 9

In Remembrance ...

- In [1 Corinthians 10:16](#), Paul provides the purpose of Communion. It is to be an identification with the broken body and shed blood of Christ. ([1 Corinthians 11:23-34](#))
- The element of Recollection ([1 Corinthians 11:24-25](#))
 - The word “remembrance was key in Christ’s own words to His disciples at the Last Supper.
 - The purpose of the Lord’s Supper is that we might remember personally and collectively what Christ accomplished for us on the cross.
 - To go through the motions of worship or Communion without meditating deeply on ‘why’ means we’re just going through the motions.
 - The bread is a picture of the humiliation Jesus’ physical body endured by the beatings and scourging – what he endured silently as he suffered for us.
 - The thorns of His “Crown” pierced His Brown
 - The lashes of the whips flayed His back
 - The point of the Roman spear pierced His side.
 - His bones were unbroken ([Psalm 34:20](#))
 - His body was broken ([John 19:32-33](#))
 - If we ever forget the suffering He endured on our behalf, then we will fail to worship Him completely.
 - The cup reminds us of His shed blood, without which there could be no remission of sin ([Heb 9:22](#)). (Life is in the blood [Leveticus 17:11](#))
 - Jesus’ shed blood is the sign that He gave up His life for us.
 - If we ever forget the worth of His priceless blood is to fail to worship Him in truth.

Communion

- The element of proclamation
 - The Lord's supper causes us to remember Jesus' sacrificial death, it causes us to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel ([1 Corinthians 11:26](#))
 - The death of Christ is at the heart of the gospel message.
 - No preaching of the Gospel is complete without reference to the shedding of blood that paid the penalty for our sin.
 - The Lord's Supper, therefore, becomes a sermon in words and actions.
- The element of expectation
 - We proclaim the Lord's death till he comes ([1 Corinthians 11:26](#)).
 - Whenever we gather in worship, and especially to celebrate the Lord's Supper, we should be looking both backward and forward. We remember Christ's death and we expect His imminent return.
 - Every person who seats himself at "the Lord's table" is testifying that he believes he will one day be caught up in the clouds to be with Christ for eternity ([1 Thessalonians 4:1-7](#))

Preparing For Communion & Worship

- In [1 Corinthians 11:28-31](#), Paul calls on the Corinthians to examine themselves to make sure they are coming to worship the Lord in a manner worthy of Christ Himself.
- Personal Examination
 - We are responsible to examine our hearts in terms of our relationship with the Lord. And we are to examine ourselves in terms of our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - We need to confess our sins, ask for forgiveness and resolve to put these sin to death once and for all.
 - We need to remember and reflect on what Jesus Christ did for us at the cross and respond back to Him with praise, thanks, and adoration.
 - Churches must be careful about putting so much talent and activity on the stage that congregations begin to play the role of 'audience' instead of active participants.
- Proper Consideration
 - The Lord's Supper is about love and fellowship and people, not food and drink.
 - Christians need to put people ahead of their own priorities and preferences, considering others before themselves
 - Christians need to put Christ above all else and come together to worship Him instead of pursuing their own interests.
 - If we come to the Lord's Supper to remember One who preferred us over himself, and have broken relationships or ill thoughts toward others in the church, we need to resolve these issues and seek forgiveness
- The next time you attend a worship service or the Lord's Supper examine your heart. Confess and repent of your sins. Repair broken relationships. And most of all, remember to worship in a manner worthy of His name.

Church Execution of The Lord's Supper

- **Frequency of Communion celebration:** The Bible provides no explicit instructions regarding frequency. Most protestant churches celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Non-protestant churches celebrate Communion daily.
- **Service of Communion:** No scriptural references have been provided except for the Last Supper. My church is like most, Many men and women (usually deacons) assist with actually passing out the elements during worship, the act of “administering” communion is reserved for ordained elders (Typically one of the pastors). These ordained elders will explain what the sacrament is, what warnings Scripture gives, and then invite those assisting to distribute the wine and bread.
- **Partakers of Communion:** [1 Corinthians 10-11](#) instructs that all who have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ are invited to receive the Lord's Supper. Those living in unrepentant sin, or who have not diligently sought reconciliation with a divided brother or sister, should abstain from the Lord's Supper.
- **Shut-Ins.** Each church has a different policy, however in our church, the practice is for one of the pastoral team members to visit the shut-in and conduct a ‘mini-worship’ service that includes the celebration of communion.