

Communion= United in Christ

Mark 6:30-44; 1 Corinthians 11:17-24

1. Follow: Gospel Unity & Love vs. 17-22

Apostle Paul challenges the church of Corinth that when partaking in Communion, their focus should be on what Jesus taught, modelled, and did for them; a feast reflecting the gospel.

As the body of Christ, when we partake in Communion our focus should be on what Jesus what Jesus taught, modelled, and did for us; a stirring up of our hearts to reflect the gospel with our words and our deeds.

2. Follow: Memorial Proclamation vs. 23-26

Apostle Paul reminded the church of Corinth why the body of Christ participates in Communion; a memorial of Jesus' atoning sacrifice for our sins, and redemption so we can have new life with God.

Insights:

- The bread symbolizes Jesus bodily death; forgiveness of sins through Jesus' atoning sacrifice.
- The cup symbolizes Jesus' suffering God's wrath (Psalm 75:8; Isaiah 51:17). Jesus Christ's shed blood demonstrated that He accepted the wrath we deserved towards our sin, so that peace with God would be made possible (Being redeemed). In doing so, Jesus inaugurated the new covenant that had been prophesied (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
- "Do This As My Memorial" (vs. 24-25): Each time the body of Christ ate the bread and drank the cup they are to recall the self-giving and grace that Jesus displayed on their behalf, and allow the Spirit to empower them to live like Jesus.

In Communion, the body of Christ participates with the purpose of proclaiming who Jesus is and what He has done for us. It is a memorial of Jesus' atoning sacrifice for our sins, and redemption so we can have new life with God.

3. Follow: Examining Self vs. 27-34

Apostle Paul warns the Corinth church to in advance examine themselves in making sure their behavior towards their fellow Christian is appropriate, as God does not take lightly those who take the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner.

We need to prepare our hearts for the Lord's Supper through examining that our fellowship with other celebrants and with God is one of being reconciled.

Questions:

- Am I following Jesus? Is my life aligned with how God calls us to fellowship with one another?
- Read Mark 6:30-44 and compare and see if what Jesus taught and modelled aligns with how the church of Corinth in 1 Corinthians 11 celebrates communion. What key lessons does the church of Corinth need to learn?
- What are the things in our society where we may accept as socially acceptable, but this would cause us to no longer be united in following Christ?