

Note: After Jesus had eaten the Passover meal with his disciples He established the ordinance we call communion or the Lord's Table.

I. The institution of communion. Luke 22:19-20 *And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.*²⁰ Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, *This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.* There are two symbolic elements; bread and wine.

A) Jesus willingly gave His body so we could be reconciled to God. Luke 22:19 *And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.* Notice He tells them to eat the bread to remember what Jesus accomplished through his body on the cross. **1 Peter 2:24** *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*²⁵ For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. The Shepherd and Bishop gives us the idea that we are in Jesus care. Remember that we are returned to the one who loves us. **Isaiah 53:5-6** *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. As a willing substitutionary sacrifice He paid the penalty for our sin. **Colossians 1:21-22** *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled*²² *In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:* I am not only reconciled I am unblameable and unprovable. **Romans 8:33-34** *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*³⁴ *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.* Remember what Jesus has done through His body.

B) His blood was shed for the remission of our sins and to redeems us from bondage Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, *This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you* **1 Peter 1:18-20** *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*¹⁹ *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: In Hebrews 9:12-14* *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*¹³ *For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:*¹⁴ *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* To purge my conscience means to release from the guilt of my past and prevent me from scars today.

C) By remembering Christ we enter into fellowship with him. When we partake of the bread and the cup what is it we are to remember? When we look at the body lifted up we remember that brings eternal life. From the blood we understand the remission of sin and forgiveness. We are saying I believe Jesus did all this for me. I thank you and praise you that Jesus did all this. I know that one day He is coming again and until that day I will partake of that bread and that cup so I will never forget an Old Rugged Cross on

which my Lord died so I could live. But there something else this ordinance should give us.¹

Corinthians 10:16-17 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 *being* many are one bread, *and* one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. **Dr. Wiresbe writes:** When the believer partakes of the cup and loaf at the Lord's table, he is, in a spiritual way, having fellowship with the body and blood of Christ. By remembering Christ's death, the believer enters into a communion with the risen Lord. As we partake we are to realize Jesus is present with us celebrating what His sacrifice accomplished for us, reminding us that He is abiding in our hearts that He loves us and rejoices that we now have a relationship with Him. He wants to remember another gift he has given to us, each other. (17) For we *being* many are one bread, *and* one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. We are celebrating this together. We are one in Him.

D.) We are declaring we believe in the second coming. **1 Corinthians 11:26** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Till he comes refers to the second coming. **Titus 2:12-13** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Belief in the second coming compels us to live alert to the presence of sin our lives. God wants us to live righteously and godly as we live expecting his return at any moment.

E) We examine ourselves to make sure we are not partaking unworthily. **1 Corinthians 11:27-29** Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. We take part 'in an unworthy manner' (v. 27) if we participate carelessly or unthinkingly. The death of our Lord Jesus has brought us into God's family so that we call him 'Father' and one another 'brother' or 'sister'. If by our behaviour we despise, hurt or humiliate one another, we sin against that sacrifice of his body and blood (v. 27). Another way we partake unworthily is refusing to confess or repent from sin. We are to remember that the cross is a cross of reconciliation. There is no better time to confess our sin than at communion.