

COMMUNION

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Psalm 116:1-19; 1 Corinthians 10:1-33 / Psalm 103:1-22

I. The Lord's Supper Is a New Testament Sacrament

A. A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ, wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers. “And *he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith* which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: *that he might be the father of all them that believe*, though they be not circumcised; *that righteousness might be imputed* unto them also:” (ROMANS 4:11)

B. Jesus set apart the Lord's Supper as He had baptism. “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, *That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:*” (1 CORINTHIANS 11:23) “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, *ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*” (1 CORINTHIANS 11:26)

C. The power of the sacrament is in the work of the Holy Spirit. “For *by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body*, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; *and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*” (1 CORINTHIANS 12:13)

D. The essential feature of receiving the sacrament is faith. “And as they were eating, *Jesus took bread*, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, *Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it*, For this is my blood of the new testament, which is *shed for many for the remission of sins.*” (MATTHEW 26:26-28)

II. Receive the Supper as God Gives It

A. The first expression of RECEIVING FAITH is self-examination. “*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.* Know ye not your own selves, *how that Jesus Christ is in you*, except ye be reprobates?” (2 CORINTHIANS 13:5)

B. A growing Christian must deal with a growing conscience. “*Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump*, as ye are unleavened. For even *Christ our Passover* is sacrificed for us:” (1 CORINTHIANS 5:7)

C. Justification is instant but sanctification comes over time with pain and effort. “*Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread;* even the first

day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for ***whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.***” (EXODUS 12:15)

D. Truth and sincerity matter; crucifixion is serious. “Therefore ***let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*** I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators.” (1 CORINTHIANS 5:8-9)

III. All Christians Have a Place at the Table

A. If you are uncertain, trust in God and act on your confidence in Him. “***Who is among you that feareth the LORD***, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and ***hath no light?*** let him trust in the name of the LORD, and ***stay upon his God.***” (ISAIAH 50:10)

B. Perfection cannot be the standard for participation. “For ***all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;***” (ROMANS 3:23) “Wherefore, ***as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.***” (ROMANS 5:12)

C. The table is for people who know they need a Savior and know that Jesus is the Savior they need. “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; ***that ye may know that ye have eternal life***, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 JOHN 5:13)

D. Apprehension is not unusual in people who grasp the depth of sin and the magnitude of the substitution Christ made for His people. “***For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.*** In a little wrath ***I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy*** on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. For ***this is as the waters of Noah*** unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For ***the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy*** on thee.” (ISAIAH 54:7-10)

E. The fearful and doubtful should shift focus from the self to the Savior. “Yea doubtless, and ***I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ*** Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them ***but dung***, that I may win Christ, And ***be found in him, not having mine own righteousness***, which is of the law, ***but that which is through the faith of Christ***, the righteousness which is of God by faith.” (PHILIPPIANS 3:8-9)

F. Bring both faith and fear to Christ. “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” (MATTHEW 11:28-29)