

RECEIVING COMMUNION TOGETHER

When a believer partakes of the Lord's Supper, he should do so with full understanding of its significance. Communion, to many people, has become only a religious observance. It has a much deeper meaning than that. The communion table is an emblem of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Matthew 26:26-28 ESV ²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Primarily, the Church has centered its attention on the wine as an emblem of Jesus' blood that was shed for sin. We take the emblem of blood and say, "Thank God, we are delivered from sin," and that is true! Praise God for it! But the blood is only half of Communion.

The bread is an emblem of Jesus' body that was broken for us. The emblem for His body is just as important as the emblem for His blood. According to Isaiah 53:4-5, Jesus' sacrifice covered every area of man's existence. He bore spiritual torment for our sins, mental distress for our worry, care, and fear as well as physical pain for our sickness and disease. The stripes He bore were for our healing. With His stripes we are healed. God gave everything He had to redeem mankind from the curse. We should not only receive part of His sacrifice. When we receive Communion, we are receiving His body and His blood.

Every time we partake, we should examine ourselves closely according to 1 Corinthians 11:28-29.

1 Corinthians 11:28-29 ESV ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

There is much more involved in receiving Communion than most Christians realize. God instituted the Lord's Supper for a reason. When you receive it, you should be ready to partake of everything Jesus' sacrifice provided —salvation, peace of mind, healing, total prosperity as given by God.

In the past, we have missed the full meaning of Communion by not completely judging ourselves when we partake of it. We have been ready to receive His blood and quick to judge ourselves where sin is concerned. We judge ourselves of sin and repent of it. But what about His body? It was broken for us. It was bruised for us. The stripes laid on Jesus' back were for our healing.

At Communion, we should judge ourselves where sickness is concerned as well. Jesus purchased our healing at Calvary just as He purchased our salvation. With this in mind, we say, "Lord, it's not right that I should suffer from sickness and disease. I judge it now as

being from Satan, and I reject it. I refuse to receive it any longer. I partake of the sacrifice of Your body, and I receive the healing that You provided in Jesus' Name." When you partake of Communion, make a point of judging yourself to the fullest extent. Don't just receive it halfway. Accept everything Jesus' sacrifice provided. If you don't examine yourself—if you receive Communion just as a religious exercise—you will be eating and drinking unworthily, not discerning the Lord's body.

Paul wrote,

1 Corinthians 11:30 ESV ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.

When the first Passover was instituted, God instructed Moses to kill a lamb, to spread its blood over the door, and then roast the lamb and eat all of it. Any that remained was to be burned away. That sacrificial lamb was completely consumed! Jesus, as the Lamb of God, was the supreme sacrifice under the Abrahamic Covenant. When you partake of His sacrifice, do not take only part of it. Take it all! Consume it completely! When you receive the Lord's Supper, do so like the children of Israel. **Exodus 12:11 ESV** says,

¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

The children of Israel were ready to go. They ate in faith. They were ready to receive their deliverance before they ate! No matter what you may be faced with—sin, sickness, drugs, a weight problem, worry, strife, old habits—you can be delivered through properly receiving the Lord's Supper. The body and blood of Jesus covered every area of your existence.

By discerning His body and judging yourself before Him, you can receive your deliverance. Place yourself before God and receive Communion as the children of Israel did—ready to receive your deliverance!

You do not have to wait until you go to church to receive Communion. Receive it at home. Get up an hour earlier in the morning every now and then. Take the time to put yourself before God over the communion table. It will be time well spent. I guarantee it! Praise God!

How to Receive Communion

Scripture Reference to Use: 1 Corinthians 11:23-24; Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:19-20

Proclamation Before the Breaking of the Bread: "Father God, in the Name of Jesus, we recognize that we have a covenant with You—a covenant that was authorized by the shed blood of Jesus at Calvary. "Because of the fact that Jesus' body was broken for us, that His blood was shed in our behalf, we acknowledge that He bore sin, sickness, disease, sorrow, grief, fear, torment, unforgiveness, strife, and lack for us. Through His substitutionary

sacrifice, we have complete redemption, total deliverance from the works of Satan. "As new creations in Christ Jesus, we realize our freedom has been bought and paid for. We are forgiven. We are redeemed. And we give thanks for it all, in Jesus' Name."

Break the Bread and Distribute It

Judge and Examine Yourself in the Light of God's Word

"Father, in the Name of Jesus, we examine our own hearts, we judge ourselves according to the authority of Your Word. "In areas where we have missed the mark (strife, unforgiveness, jealousy, envy, hatred, covetousness, fear, worry, unbelief, etc.), we take Jesus as our Advocate and High Priest. We ask forgiveness according to the Word of God (1 John 1:9). Your Word says You are faithful and just to forgive us when we confess our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. "Therefore, we do not eat of the bread nor drink of the cup unworthily, but we rightly discern the Lord's body. We receive Communion together now as the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. We are free from the works of Satan—spirit, soul, and body."

Then read this Scripture:

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 ESV ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Partake of the Bread Together

Then read this Scripture:

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 ESV ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Partake of the Cup Together

Now Join Hands Together and Make This Confession

"Father, we give You thanks for all You have provided for us in Christ Jesus. We confess this day we are the blessed of the Lord. This covenant we entered into at the new birth is a covenant filled with the exceeding great and precious promises of God, and we are partakers of those promises now! "We are healed. We are redeemed. We are delivered from the authority of darkness. We are translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. We are the head and not the tail. We are above only and not beneath. We come behind in no good thing. All that we set our hands to prospers, and we praise You, Father, for the newness of life we now enjoy, in Jesus' Name, Amen."

Prayer for Salvation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”* (Acts 2:21 NIV). Today, I call upon You, believing in my heart that You raised Christ Jesus from the dead. I boldly confess with my mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and I receive Him as the Savior of my life—just as Your Word promises in Romans 10:9–10 (NIV): *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

Thank You, Father, that I am now Your child—born again by Your Spirit. And as Your child, I know You have more for me. Your Word declares in Luke 11:13 (NIV), *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

So now, Father, I ask You to fill me to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. I believe I receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit right now. Thank You for filling me, and by faith, I fully expect to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gives me utterance, in accordance with Acts 2:4.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.