

We Demonstrate Unity

In a sense, the Holy Communion is the very centre of the Local Church's fellowship. Five times in 1 Corinthians 11, in the space of eighteen verses, Paul uses the verb "to come together", v17,18, 20,33,34.

Any social, racial, or other human barrier vanishes as we gather together as brothers and sisters around the table of the Lord, Galatians 3:28. In fact, Paul sees the truth of this represented in the very bread that we eat. Taking communion together is an act of unity among the family of believer's. 1 Corinthians 10:17
This symbolism has a two-fold significance:

- a. Each person receives a fragment from the same loaf because each is a member of the same Body of Christ.
- b. The loaf is an emblem of the crucified Saviour, and it is our participation in Him that makes us one.

We Give Thanks

As we have said before the Communion is referred to by some as the "Eucharist" which is the Greek word for thanksgiving. The service was first called this as a result of the Lord's giving thanks, Luke 22:17-19. Thanksgiving, praise and worship, together with a fresh offering of our lives to be used by the Lord ought to be features of our gatherings at the Lord's table.



Communion



John 6:54 *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.*

Why taking Communion is important

The Lord Jesus Christ left only two ordinances for all Christians to keep **Communion and Water Baptism**. (ask for this pamphlet)

This booklet explains the sacrament of Holy Communion.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is a very vital aspect of Church life, 1 Corinthians 10:16. The particular name by which it is known varies from church to church: “The Lord’s Table,” 1 Corinthians 10:21, “The Lord’s Supper”, 1 Corinthians 11:20, “The Eucharist” (literally “Thanks-giving,”) Luke 22:17-19.

Holy Communion was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ on the night of His betrayal. Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:17-20. In the Communion service, bread and grape juice (or similar substances) are used.

What does the bread represent? Matthew 26:26 – The body of Jesus. What does the grape juice represent? Matthew 26:27,28 – The blood of Jesus

After Jesus had given thanks, what did He do to the bread? 1 Corinthians 11:23,24. – He broke the bread into pieces and distributed the wine for them to drink. Jesus broke the bread and gave the drink to symbolise his life being offered up for those who would follow him.

Personal Preparation

Because of the importance of the Local Church’s gathering to celebrate Holy Communion, it is imperative that each person be in a right relationship with the Lord before he/she receives.

What should a person do before he eats the bread and drinks the cup at the Communion service?

1 Corinthians 11:27,28 – examine ourselves.

Why should you make sure you are right with God before you take Communion?

1 Corinthians 11:29 – You are bringing judgement upon yourself if you take communion without personal preparation.

To partake in the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner, is to make sure that you have forgiven all others their sins against you, released them from your judgment and you are praying blessings of God upon them, Matthew 18:32-35. Mark 11:25,26, Colossians 1:9-11, Acts 26:18.

By taking the sacrament of communion:

We Remember and Reflect

In the Old Testament, God gave Israel a series of Feasts throughout their calendar year which commemorated great truths. The first Feast of the year was called “The Passover”, Exodus 12:11, and served as a yearly reminder that it was through the blood and body of the lamb that Israel was delivered from Egyptian bondage. Jesus kept this Feast with His disciples on the night before His crucifixion. He transformed the “Passover” of the Old Covenant into the Communion of the New Covenant – making His own Body and Blood the fulfilment of the Passover Lamb, 1 Corinthians 5:7.

What are we reminded of when we partake of the Communion?

1 Corinthians 11:26 – we are reminded of the Lord’s death

What do we look forward to when we partake of the Communion?

1 Corinthians 11:26 – to his return

When we are present at a communion service, then, we should remember the terrible death that Jesus died on our behalf and the great benefits that we have as a result of Calvary. We ought also to be mindful that the resurrection of Jesus goes hand in hand with His death, 1 Corinthians 15:20, and turns Calvary into triumph.

We Participate Together

The word translated “Communion” in the King James Version literally means “sharing” or “participation”. In other words, the Communion Service is not just a “naked memorial”; it is in some way a real sharing and participation in the benefits that Jesus won for us on the Cross.