

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH SUPPER TABLE AND COMMUNION



1 Corinthians 11:23-32

23 For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread 24 and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it."

26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again. 27 So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. 29 For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died. 31 But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. 32 Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

Blessings New Life Disciple/Partner,

I have taken the liberty in preparation for First Sunday Communion, to prepare this outline and explanation of Communion taken from 1 Corinthians 11:23-32. Please take time to review the information below before you serve one another as a family and share in Communion or the Lord's Supper with one another.

Please take special note that there are instructions contained in the document below:

- Opening Prayer: Assigned to a Family Member/Guest
- Reading of Scripture: Assigned to a Family Member/Guest
- Sacraments/Elements Needed: Regular Saltine Crackers & Grape Juice



COMMUNION

The primary biblical text on the nature and meaning of the Lord's Supper/Table and Communion is 1 Corinthians 11:23-32. Here are ten brief observations on what we see in this text.

1) The Lord's Supper is primarily (but not exclusively) designed to elicit or to stimulate in our heart's remembrance of the person and work of Jesus: "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:25).

2) This remembrance is commanded. Participation at the Lord's Table is not an option. Prolonged absence from it is spiritually unhealthy and willful neglect of it will prolongs one's feelings of being disconnected from the Lord.

#ReIMAGINE New Life Lord's

3) This remembrance entails the use of tangible elements: bread and wine. It isn't enough simply to say, "Remember!" The elements of bread and wine are given to stir our minds and hearts. The physical action of eating and drinking is designed to remind us that we spiritually "ingest" and depend upon Jesus and the saving benefits of his life, death, and resurrection. Just as food and drink are essential to sustain physical existence, so also the blessings and benefits that come to us through the body and blood of Christ are paramount to our spiritual flourishing.

4) It is a personal remembrance. We are to remember Jesus. The focus isn't on Abraham or Moses or Isaiah. The focus is no longer on the Jewish Passover or the night of his betrayal or anything else. The focus is Jesus. "Do this in remembrance of ME" (1 Corinthians 11:25).

5) In this remembering there is also confession. In partaking of the elements, we declare: "Christ gave his body and blood for me. He died for me." If one cannot and does not personally and consciously confess that the bread and wine symbolize the body and blood of Jesus sacrificed for sinners, he/she should not, indeed must not, partake of them.

6) In this remembering we also proclaim the Lord's death till he comes. This, then, is not merely an ordinance that looks to the past. It is an ordinance of hope that points to the future.

7) To partake of the Lord's Table in an unworthy manner (v. 27) is to take it without regard to its true worth, not yours. To partake unworthily is to come complacently, lightheartedly, giving no thought to that which the elements signify.

I. H. Marshall explains:

"In some Christian circles today, the fear of partaking unworthily in the Supper leads to believers of otherwise excellent character refraining from coming to the table of the Lord. When this happens, Paul's warning is being misunderstood. The Lord's Supper is the place where the forgiveness of sin is proclaimed and offered to all who would receive it. Paul's warning was not to those who were leading unworthy lives and longed for forgiveness but to those who were making a mockery of that which should have been most sacred and solemn by their behavior at the meal". To partake in an "unworthy manner" thus entails at least three things: (a) calloused disregard for others in the body of Christ (see vv. 20-22); (b) an attempt to combine participation at pagan (demonic) feasts with participation at the Lord's table (see 1 Corinthians 10:14-22); and (c) flippant disregard for what the elements represent (vv. 23-26).

8) To be "guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" (v. 27) is to treat as common or profane something which is sacred. The Lord's Supper is not just another meal.

9) Hence, we are to "examine ourselves" (v. 28). We are to test our motives and attitudes as we approach the table to be certain we are partaking for the right reasons and with the right understanding of what the elements represent.

10) Finally, failure to do so may lead to divine discipline (1 Corinthians 11:29-34). Such chastisement from the Father is in order that believers may be spared the condemnation that comes to the unbelieving world. Some in Corinth had already suffered the discipline of God ("weak and sick"); some had even died physically ("sleep"). And this was an expression of God's gracious commitment to preserve his people "so that we may not be condemned along with the world" (1 Corinthians 11:32b).

Communion Celebration Instructions:

- Take the Bread and the Cup/Juice and as you lift them both ask the Lord to bless and prepare your hearts to remember Him in this sacred moment.
- Say, "this Bread represents Your body and this Cup holding the Fruit of the Vine represents Your Shed Blood on our behalf as a sacrifice for our sins. We do this as You have commanded and in remembrance of You! In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!"
- Closing Prayer

To God be the glory!

