

The Lord's Supper

There are seven reasons given in the Bible for celebrating what is often called “communion.” These reasons are worth thinking about when the bread and cup are being passed.

Purpose 1: FOR MAINTAINING LOVING UNITY

■ *Moves against our human tendency to divide from people who differ or whom we think are inferior to us. This is the Family at the Table.*

Purpose 2: FOR OBEYING OUR LORD

■ *Moves against our human tendency to ignore the authority of Christ, replacing Him with human traditions and substitute “lords.” This is a reminder who’s in charge of the church.*

Purpose 3: FOR EXPRESSING TRUE CELEBRATION

■ *Moves against the human tendency to be ungrateful for such ancient favors or to carry guilt over past sins long since forgiven. This Meal is evidence of a completed and accepted Sacrifice.*

Purpose 4: FOR DECLARING CHRIST’S DEATH

■ *Moves against our human tendency to be repelled by the cross and its sweeping implications about the depth of our need. The Meal tells a story of exactly what it takes to be right with God.*

Purpose 5: FOR ANTICIPATING CHRIST’S RETURN

■ *Moves against the human tendency to live only for the present, with the resulting selfishness and often despair. The Meal reminds you Jesus will come back in victory.*

Purpose 6: FOR DRAWING ON CHRIST’S STRENGTH

■ *Moves against our human tendency to try our best to make it on our own, using God as a last resort. The Meal calls us to realize our spiritual resources in Christ.*

Purpose 7: FOR PROMOTING PURITY

■ *Moves against our human tendency to slide downhill morally and spiritually. The Meal makes us examine ourselves to make sure we are not eating in an unworthy way.*