

### **SACRAMENT: A sacred mystery!**

*Something hidden that is to be revealed.*

*Communion is revealing of a hidden thing.*

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV) *23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night 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." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

*Communion:* is a rite (like a marriage or graduation) that shows our communion (togetherness) with Christ Jesus through faith. We take communion only after we have declared our faith in Jesus Christ. (Communion is also known as the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist)

*What's the difference between Baptism and Communion?* Baptism is a one time act that shows our union with Christ. Communion is the continual act that shows our union with Christ.

*Why do we take communion?* First is because Jesus said to and we obey by following his instructions, but there are three other reasons why:

1. *Past* - Taking it helps us to remember Jesus' death.
2. *Present* - Taking it with other believers is declaring we all grow through Jesus, are united together with Jesus, and must treat others how Jesus told us to.
3. *Future* - Taking it helps us to look forward to Jesus' return and are encouraged by thinking of it.

### **How does communion work at Willow Glen Bible Church?**

Communion is open for all believers to participate in and is typically done monthly but can happen more often. Communion usually happens at the end of a worship service after the preacher has taught on the bible. The pastor will use either the accounts of Jesus instituting communion or Paul's explanation of it as they begin (Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25 amongst other verses). The bread is passed and taken together, then the wine (usually grape juice) is passed and taken together.

Before Communion is taken Paul instructs believers to consider if they have wronged anyone and ask for forgiveness. See 1 Corinthians 1:28.

## **Symbolism**

### **BREAD:**

Unleavened bread was baked in haste in anticipation of sudden deliverance for the people of Israel. Its presence in the Passover meal is a constant reminder of God's work and the sustenance it provided the people in their early days in the wilderness escaping from slavery in Egypt

Jesus redefined that bread around himself - he is the Bread of Life, he is the one who delivers us from slavery to sin, he is the one who sustains us through all of life.

### **CUP / WINE / JUICE**

4 cups of wine structure the Passover meal. The third cup symbolizes the blood of the sacrificial lambs poured out as offering for the sins of the people. The people put that blood around the frames of their doors to indicate they were of God, forgiven and redeemed by him. As a result, death passed them by and they were delivered from slavery.

Jesus redefined that cup around himself - the Blood of Jesus is the blood of the ultimate sacrifice to pay the penalty of our sins. Communion reminds us and celebrates the fact that as the doors of the people were covered with the saving blood, now our lives are covered in the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from our sin and to save us from death.

Willow Glen Bible Church Statement of Belief

*All believers are to remember the sacrifice of the Lord on their behalf by observing the Lord's Supper until His return.*