

A Family Meal – Pastor Gilbert Silva – 03-19-2023

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV) 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.”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.

Introduction: We've all had the experience of sharing a meal with family and friends. There is a lot of food, talk, and laughter. But most importantly, there is a sense of community, a sense of friendliness and communion. I'm sure the atmosphere at Jesus' final meal with his disciples was very similar.

Today we gather to eat at the Lord's table. When we gather to take communion, there are three things we should remember.

One is the ultimate price Jesus paid for our sins, the second is the new covenant He established for us, and the third is the new family He welcomed us into.

1. It reminds us of the ultimate price Jesus paid for our sins

“This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Never forget that the punishment he received in the beating and crucifixion was substitutionary. This happened to Him not because of anything He did wrong, but because of our sins.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Isaiah 53:4-5 (ESV) Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Jesus took on himself the full wrath of God that we deserved.

1 John 4:10 (NLT) This is real love not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

2. It reminds us of the new covenant He established for us

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Matthew 26:28 (NLT) for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.

The New Covenant is the promise that God will forgive sin and restore fellowship with those whose hearts are turned toward Him.

Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (ESV) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Ephesians 2:11-13 (ESV) Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant, and His death on the cross is the basis of the promise.

Entering the New Covenant is made possible only by faith in Christ, who shed His blood to take away the sins of the world.

3. It reminds us of the new family He welcomed us into

Taking communion is something we do as a family of believers. Of course, all of us may be in different places when it comes to our spiritual development and experience with the Lord, but at the table of the Lord we are one body.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NLT) When we bless the cup at the Lord’s Table, aren’t we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren’t we sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.

The depths to which we understand what Christ did on the cross are reflected in how we relate to and consider one another.

- Someone who comprehends the depth of God's kindness and mercy through Christ extends kindness and mercy to others.
- A person who understands the power of forgiveness found in Christ's cross is quick to forgive others.
- A person who understands God's unearned love in Christ for us does not demand that others earn their love.

The church in Corinth by their very actions displayed their lack of understanding of the significance of the communion.

Listen to how Paul addressed them on this issue.

1 Corinthians 11:20-22 (NLT) When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others. As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk. ²² What? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor? What am I supposed to say? Do you want me to praise you? Well, I certainly will not praise you for this!

Just as Jesus instituted communion after supper, the church in Corinth made it a practice to eat a large meal before celebrating the Lord's Supper.

Unfortunately, they made big meal the main event, and the communion became a meaningless afterthought.

Their lack of understanding the significance of The Communion was seen in the way behaved and treated each other.

When we understand all that Christ did for us we cannot help but want to extend this kind of forgiveness and kindness to others.

Colossians 3:13-14 (NLT) Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

I wasn't present when Jesus was brutally killed and crucified, I wasn't present when He was buried, and I wasn't present when He rose from the dead and conquered death, but my heart is always stirred when the Holy Spirit who was present speaks to me through the scriptures about the event that changed my life.

Today, we are gathered, ready to partake in a meal that symbolizes everything Jesus did to save us from our sins.

Communion should not be performed in such a way that it becomes meaningless and empty. Take it with humility, gratitude, and a worshipful heart.

Jesus deserves praise because He carried our cross and died for our freedom. He has cleansed us of our shame and guilt; His love is unmistakable. We now have fellowship with Father God and each other as a result of what Jesus has done.

Allow the Holy Spirit to work in your heart as you partake in communion.

If you have never accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, repent and turn to Him for forgiveness.