



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 11
The week of February 7, 2021

Christ in You: *Enjoying Our Union with Christ*

More than a Symbol: The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

This week we look at our union with Christ through the lens and experience of communion. Each group is encouraged to share in this sacred meal together as a part of their experience.

Read the first of two main texts from Sunday's message:

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸ Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? ¹⁹ What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²² Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

1. a. Why does Paul equate idol worship with demons?

b. What about food sacrificed this way by pagans involves the realm of demons?

c. Why is this a dangerous practice for the Corinthian Christians to be associated with?
2. a. In what sense is communion "participation" with the body and blood of Christ?

b. What is Paul communicating to the church about our union with Christ as we eat the bread and drink the cup?

- c. Paul speaks of one bread that we all partake of and one body of Christ, the church. Why is communion to be shared in together as the church?

**Read the second of two main texts from Sunday's message:
1 Corinthians 11:23-32**

²³ 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.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

4. a. What does it mean to receive communion in an unworthy manner?
- b. Why does Paul attach a measure of judgment to those who receive communion this way?
- c. What is involved in examining oneself before partaking?
5. a. Why is Paul so strict in his language directing the church to participate in communion in a worthy manner?
- b. What is so distinct about this meal that requires a surrendered heart to Christ?

Read Exodus 12:1-14

STUDY NOTE

As Jesus instituted this sacred tradition of the church, he did so on the night that he was betrayed by Judas; at the Passover meal with his disciples. Jesus used the rich symbolisms and traditions of the Passover to proclaim Himself as THE Passover lamb. His use of the powerful symbolism of the Exodus event reinforces God's plan of salvation that was set in motion for many centuries before the time of Jesus. We can learn much about communion from studying its roots in the Old Testament.

6. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was instituted here in Exodus 12 as a memorial to God's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian slavery. Study together what is outlined in scripture for this feast and how the Jewish of the Passover Seder dinner developed over the centuries. What symbolism do you see here in Exodus 12 and through your study that foreshadows the gospel?

Read Matthew 26:26-29

STUDY NOTE

Our practice of sharing in the Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper. This text is a powerful reminder of the moment when Jesus took the bread and the cup and proclaimed the new covenant that was about to be unleashed on humanity in the greatest act of sacrificial love of all time. May we never lose the awe and wonder of this moment that we encounter in Matthew's gospel.

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

7. Contrast the two covenants spoken of here by the prophet. What are the key differences?

8. What was Jesus proclaiming as he instituted the sacred tradition of communion?

9. What is the depth and meaning of Christ's words as you personalize them in receiving communion?

Read Revelation 19:6-9

STUDY NOTE

This text looks forward to another meal that we will all share in someday in Heaven at a moment when God brings all things to redemptive glory. Our present condition is temporary and the sacred meal of communion is a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb. As we examine this hope-filled scripture may we look forward with great anticipation to the meal that we will all share in together.

10. What about this passage gives you hope for the future glory we will experience?

11. What does the Bride (the church) need to do in our current reality to become ready for this moment in the future? What is our role in that here at LCC?

12. How does our practice of communion prepare us for this moment in the future?



