

Communion: A Worthy Approach

Series: "Freedom in Christ," Part 4 of 4

1 Corinthians 10:14-22, 11:17-34

"Jealousy, Worship His Jealousy?"

(1 Cor 10:21-22 NIV) *You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. {22} Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?*

(Exo 34:14 NIV) *Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*

From these passages we see plainly what God meant by telling Moses that His name was 'Jealous'. He meant that He demands from those whom He has loved and redeemed utter and absolute loyalty, and will vindicate his claim by stern action against them if they betray his love by unfaithfulness.

—J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*

The Lord very frequently addresses us in the character of a husband. . . . As he performs all the offices of a true and faithful husband, so he requires love and chastity from us, that is, that we do not prostitute our souls to Satan. . . . He burns with the hottest jealousy whenever, neglecting the purity of His holy marriage, we defile ourselves with abominable lusts, and especially when the worship of His deity, which ought to have been most carefully kept unimpaired, is transferred to another, or adulterated with some superstition, since in this way we not only violate our plighted troth, but defiled the nuptial couch by giving access to adulterers.

—John Calvin, *Institutes*, II, viii, 18

A Special Area of Jealousy

(1 Cor 10:15-16 NIV) *I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. {16} Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?*

1. Transubstantiation = The _____ View
2. Consubstantiation = The _____ View
3. Memorial Position = _____ and Other Evangelicals
4. Real Presence = _____ View

EFCA Statement of Faith, Part #7: *The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, **these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.***

FIVE WAYS TO PREPARE FOR AND CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. Enjoy Our _____ in Christ. _____

(1 Cor 10:17 NIV) Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

2. Remember Christ's _____ for Us. _____

(1 Cor 11:24-25 NIV) . . . "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." . . . "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Q: What does our communion daily require of us?

A: Our communion requires that we daily keep in remembrance the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . —*Evangelical Catechism*

3. Pray for _____ in the Congregation. _____

(1 Cor 11:26 NIV) *For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

Ex: Communion at _____ Park

4. Look Forward to Christ's _____.

(1 Cor 11:26 NIV) *For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

5. Examine Yourself _____ and _____.

(1 Cor 11:27-28 NIV) *Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. {28} A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*

(1 Cor 11:29-30 NIV) *For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. {30} That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.*

Sermon-based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 4, 2009

1 Corinthians 10:14-22, 11:17-34

Icebreaker: Take a moment to recall a significant memory. What is the memory and describe the emotions that go with it. Would you ever want to lose that memory?

1. What is a good definition of idolatry? How is idolatry related to the jealousy of God that Pastor Mark talked about in his sermon?
2. Paul alludes to the idolatry of both the Corinthians (10:14) and ancient Israel (10:7). Why do you think idolatry is attractive to God's people?
3. When Paul says in verse 14, "flee from idolatry," what does he mean?
4. Idols are mere wood and stone and not real gods, but idol worship is not harmless. There is a darker side to idol worship mentioned in chapter 10, verse 20. What is it and why is it significant?
5. What do you know about the demonic world?
6. How is it possible for professing believers to be participants with demons as expressed in verse 20?
7. Divisions were a big problem in the Corinthian church and unity was not highly regarded. There are two unities demonstrated in the Lord's Supper (10:16-17). What are they? Why are they both important to the Corinthians? To us?
8. The Corinthians couldn't get communion right. What were they doing wrong (11:21-22)? Were they provoking God to jealousy?
9. What value is there in remembering the body and blood of Christ (11:24)? How is it like the Passover of the Old Testament?
10. In what sense is partaking in communion a proclamation of the gospel (11:26)?
11. What do you think it means to take communion in an unworthy manner (11:27) or unworthy manner of approach?
12. Paul advised the Corinthian believers to examine themselves before partaking at the Lord's Table (11:28). What did he mean, and why is it important? How do you do it?
13. Are there any risks in taking communion (11:30-31)? Does God discipline?
14. Some folk find the communion service depressing and morbid, preoccupied with sin and death. What encouragement can you offer to a brother or sister in Christ who feels this way?
15. In your opinion and from a biblical perspective, how well is your church family observing the Lord's Table?

Prayer

Pray for our church's unity with Christ and with one another.

Pray for one another.