

COME AND DINE

Come and feast at the table of the Lord with your fellow members of the Body of Christ.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The Old Testament gives us some early insights into what Communion was intended to represent:
- ❖ The blood of the Passover lamb on the doorposts saved the firstborn of Israel (Exodus 12:3-13).
- ❖ Only those who had entered into the covenant of circumcision were permitted to eat the Passover lamb (Ex. 12:47-48).
- ❖ The children of Israel were baptized unto Moses in the Red Sea (Ex. 14:13-14, 16, 29-30a; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2).
- ❖ God fed them manna from heaven (Ex. 16:4) and gave them water from rocks (Ex. 17:6). This was their only means of survival.
- ❖ God fed and cared for 'baptized' sinners and rebels.
- ❖ The Israelites did not receive God's blessings in a "worthy" manner. They engaged in idolatry, were grossly immoral, tested God's patience constantly and murmured and complained daily (1 Cor. 10:6-10).
- ❖ Israelites rejected God's way, His will and His plan, and a whole generation died in the wilderness (Numbers 14:22-23, 29).
- ❖ New Testament fulfillment parallels Old Testament typology:
- ❖ Jesus is the Passover Lamb whose blood alone saves (1 Cor. 5:7).
- ❖ We are eligible to partake at the Passover table after we have entered into covenant with Jesus Christ through baptism (Mark 16:16).
- ❖ Jesus identified Himself as the bread from heaven (John 6:51). He told the crowd that if they didn't eat His flesh and drink His blood, they had no life in them. There was no other option for their spiritual survival (John 6:53).
- ❖ Jesus instituted the (NT) Passover feast: "The Lord's Supper" or "Communion" as the way in which we eat His flesh and drink His blood (Mark 14:22-24).
- ❖ Who may participate? Baptized believers. Those who will partake in a worthy manner.
- ❖ How holy and righteous does one need to be to partake at the Communion table? As 'holy' and 'righteous' as the disciples were.
- ❖ Yet, in spite of their transgressions, Jesus served Communion to each and every one of them!

KEY SCRIPTURES

Exodus 12:3-13, John 6:35-58, 1 Corinthians 10:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

- ❖ Paul's emphasis in 1 Cor. 11:27 when speaking against partaking "unworthily" is on the condition of the heart as one partakes.
- ❖ Jesus said: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick" (Matthew 9:12b).
- ❖ The Lord does not chase us from His table because of our imperfections. He welcomes us because of our need.
- ❖ However, we must come to the table in an attitude of reverence to God.
- ❖ Eating and drinking 'in a worthy manner' means we honour the Lord's Body—the Church—as precious. We must treat our brethren as if they were Jesus!
- ❖ We cannot cleanse ourselves to make ourselves worthy, so He calls us to eat His flesh and drink His blood so we can have life. Not our life, but His life.
- ❖ Do not avoid the table. It gives life. It is to draw us closer to God and closer to each other. It is to show the power of the gospel at work in us and in the body of Christ. It is to remember the work of Christ at Calvary and to celebrate Him.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What are the indispensable factors in participating in the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner?
2. Discuss the significance of Paul's emphasis in 1 Corinthians 11:27 on the condition of the heart as one partakes of Communion.
3. What does 'partaking of the Lord's Supper' bring to your attention the most? Discuss.

Prayer Time

Lord, help us always to remember Your sacrifice. And break us further to be all that You have meant for us to be, in You. Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

-  (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)
- ! (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: When it comes to being prepared, do you do things last minute and finish well or plan well in advance and finish well?