

## **COMMUNION – LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD, LIVING TODAY**

Mary Craig, D. Min.

The Lord's Supper links us to the past. The Passover remembers Israel's redemption from Egypt, a redemption from slavery. Christ our Passover, accomplished redemption from sin and from the curse of the Law. By the Law of Faith, the true believer is redeemed. There is therefore, no condemnation to those who believe. The Law of the Spirit of Life sets us free from the Law of Sin and Death by the Law of Faith. Christ died as our sacrifice at the time when the Lamb without blemish was offered in Passover. The Body, for you. The Blood, for you. A New Covenant.

We look back and remember. We proclaim the LORD's sacrificial death until He comes. Remembering is to keep us from sliding into unbelief, side-stepping into whoredoms and error, and puffing up some spiritual notion of ourselves to where we walk in pride as ingrates.

Remember. The communion is also an act of remembrance linking us in anticipation of Jesus' return. Until He comes...The kingdom is now, already, but it is also "not yet." The age to come began with the incarnation of Jesus Christ, with His coming into this world in the flesh as the Servant Son and Savior. But Jesus did not stay in the grave. It could not hold Him. So we also remember His rising from the dead the third day. We remember that He ascended into heaven, that He is King of kings and Lord of lords, Ruler over the kings of this world. We remember that He is coming again.

We are to look from the last to the first. We are to engage ourselves in the act of thinking, or remembering, thoroughly, to and fro, backwards and forward.

So what do we do here today

1. We commemorate by remembrance that looks backward to Christ's sacrificial death for the Elect, the Called-out ones. It is a celebration.
2. We anticipate the coming of Christ, looking forward to the consummation of the Covenant.
3. We "commune" by faith with the Lord Jesus, a common union, an understanding of the Body of Christ, as to Himself the Body prepared, as to all the Elect as the body and us as the members of that body, and as to ourselves individually, as the body of which Christ is Head.

4. We utilize this means of grace by which we experience all the benefits of Jesus' death in our place: spiritual nourishment, growth in grace, and renewal of thanksgiving toward God.

5. We take seriously the demands of this ordinance which urges us to prepare ourselves to come to this Table by: examining ourselves as to our being in The Faith, being "in Christ"; as to examining our sins and lack, in truth and repentance; as to examining ourselves for the presence of God-ward supreme loyalty and attachment [*agape*] and *phileo*, brotherly love, forgiving those who have wronged us; examining ourselves for the presence of a desire to obey Christ as God has given grace through the Holy Spirit to obey through faith which works by love; to seek in all humility for Life by the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus; and to use care and diligence as we follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

6. We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes by participating in a public witness, an evangelical witness, of the Cross Work of Christ, of the death of Christ; that Christ died for us and gave Himself for us that we might have life, eternal life in and by means of Him alone.

7. We testify that we believe in what we remember today, according to what we know and understand.

8. We embrace this Table, this Common Union by faith believing.

Read Luke 22:16-20

Luke 22:16 – Jesus informed His apostles that He no longer, never not, would He eat the Passover again with them “until when it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

And having received the cup, having given thanks, He said: “Take this and divide it among themselves. Indeed I say to you, that NO NOT will I drink from now of the fruit of the vine until that the KOG shall come.” We look to the future, the consummation of the Covenant in Christ's Blood.

And having taken the bread, having given thanks, He broke and gave to them, saying, This is the body of Me, which for you is given. This do in the of Me remembrance.

Also, the cup likewise, after which having supped, saying, The cup [is] the new [in quality] covenant in the Blood of Me, which for you is being poured out.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1 Cor. 11:26)

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Let us proclaim, participate, and partake.