



Love+One

God is Love

1 John 4:8

Scriptures/Notes

## Communion in Jesus

### **Understanding the Communion of Christ?**

Communion is associated with Jesus and the final meal He partook with His disciples just prior to His crucifixion. It is affiliated with the Feast of Passover the Israelites celebrated once a year with the blood of a pure lamb spread upon their wooden doors and roasting and eating the full lamb inside their home. This was an honoring of the Messiah's death. Remember, the Passover is the death of Christ.

As the time drew near, Jesus told His disciples to prepare for the Passover and they gathered for a meal with Jesus. We call it the Last Supper because it was the last meal and the final time Jesus would be with them. It was at this event, He described to them the true body and blood, Himself, represented symbolically as bread and wine.

In all four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), we learn of what Jesus taught to His disciples when He sat with them. He tells them what will soon occur and for them to remember all that He has taught them and to remember Him. He demonstrated with food, exemplifying the bread as eternal life found only in Him and the wine as the blood He will shed for the remission of the sins of the world. It was His final instructions and He knew they would need something symbolic to illustrate to them that they not forget all He has communicated to them and what His life and death represent.

In the Old Testament, God provided manna from Heaven and water from the rocks of the earth. It was for survival; it was temporal. In the New Testament, Jesus came as the manna, the Bread of Life, for eternal life. To receive Him, Jesus had to cleanse us of our sinful nature with His blood. Under the Covenant of Moses, manna and water were supplied by God to sustain life. Under the Covenant of Christ, He came as the manna and water/blood for eternal life to all who believe.

Throughout the Scriptures bread and wine are mentioned often. Celebrations, weddings, and meals were shared with bread and wine. It was the typical food of that era. Jesus gave a comparison of the bread the Father sent down from heaven to feed the Israelites; and Himself being the very Bread of Life, eternal life. *Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.* One source is for sustenance while Jesus explains Himself to be the Bread for an eternal life within the Kingdom. *Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.* In Jesus' final time with His disciples, He wanted them to understand who He was, why He came, and what it all meant to them. This teaching holds true today just as it did two thousand years ago.

In the early Christian church, they continued to celebrate a full meal in remembrance of Jesus, but as generations passed, the meal turned into a snack, and then into a cracker and grape juice celebration in churches on the Passover, or what we refer to as Good Friday/Easter. Some religions today, Catholic in particular, use the bread and wine concept for Holy Communion during each church gathering.

*For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.* John 6:33

### **Is Christ expecting the believers today to continue the symbolic ritual of communion in remembrance of the reason for His death?**

Though there is no harm to those who desire to conduct an act of remembrance and believe it draws them closer to the presence of the Lord, it is not mandatory to continue what was meant to be an act of symbolism for the disciples. Jesus mentioned this to the twelve who shared the last meal with Him. He did not instruct them to teach this to others, though they may have done so. We have to recall that they only had Jesus as the man, not as the Spirit of Christ dwelling within them because He has not yet been crucified.

However today, the believer who is born into the spirit realm in Christ and given the gift of the Holy Spirit, should understand to be in remembrance, continually. Just as the rest (Sabbath) in Christ is in us and not a particular day to give reverence to the Lord, so is our communion in Christ ongoing because He is within us. We remember Him daily. This becomes the difference between the disciples of the Old Testament era, and the New Testament communion given to us in Christ.

## How close can you get to God?

When you are given a spirit birth in Christ (for the Father) and Christ gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit to live within you (your heart), you are now a recipient of all the gifts and heavenly power. One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. Asking for this gift and learning to use the gift enables the believer to be as close to God as humanly possible. Until you leave your earthen body and are given your new eternal spiritual body and God reigns with you, this is the closest man can be to God, the Father. When speaking in tongues, you are speaking God's language, a spiritual language, from your spirit through the interpreter, the Holy Spirit, to God, Himself. It is not relevant for you to have human awareness of this spiritual language; for frankly, if you did the prayer/communication would be tainted with your personal thoughts, emotions, and opinions. Just as when we pray openly to the Father with our soul/cognitive reasoning, we put our own thoughts, ideas, expectations, and desires into what we are asking of God.

With your rest in Jesus (not the performance of a Sabbath day), your communion (remembrance) of Christ is His living within you (not a cracker and grape juice representation of His body and blood), the peace He gives to you to look toward Him, and finally the spiritual language, a gift given by the Holy Ghost of speaking in tongues; you literally cannot be any closer to God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit while living on earth still in your human body.

- Rest
- Communion
- Peace
- Spiritual Language

God and the Word, Jesus, set forth at the foundation of Creation that when the Word became flesh and taught of the Kingdom of God, Christ would make a way for every believer in Him to have all that He has. When He completed the task set forth by the Father, He said: "It is Finished", died, resurrected and returned to the throne in the Kingdom. What Jesus left for each of us is Himself. To all who accept Him, He quickens our spirit with His Spirit and we have rest, peace, communion, and a heavenly spiritual language that we may be connected through Him to live within the Kingdom of Heaven right now, today, as we await His return.

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.* John 14:27

## Gospel of Matthew

*And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is my body.** And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until the day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. Matthew 26:26-29*

## Gospel of Mark

*And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body.** And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, **This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.** Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. Mark 14:22-25*

## Gospel of Luke

*And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, **With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:** For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, **Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.** And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, **This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.** Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.** Luke 22:14-20*

## Gospel of John

*Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.** For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. **Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.** But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him,*

may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven? Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. John 6:32-59

The apostles went about teaching the gospel of Christ, performing wonders and signs and converting people to following their teachings. Initially, three-thousand souls rendered their life to Christ. Scriptures mention they broke bread and prayed with those that believed, which may or may not be construed as a communion to Christ or merely a natural occurrence when gathering together.

*And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Acts 2:40-47*

## 1 Corinthians 10 & 11

*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? 1 Corinthians 10:16-18*

*For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 11:23-27*