



Aug 29, 2021 ~ Communion Celebration ~ Colossians 1:1-17

OPEN

What is like when your extended family gathers for a meal? What do you think of when you come to the celebration of communion? Do you think of it as a “family meal”?

Communion roots us in all that Jesus *is* and has *done*. In these days of concern and care, we truly need to be focused on Jesus. There is so much both near and far which assaults our peace.

God has left the Church with two essential celebrations. Baptism **identifies** the individual with the saving work of Christ, witnessed and celebrated by the family of God. At the Lord’s table or communion, we celebrate Jesus’ work **corporately**.

In a real way it is a “family meal” (though this has often been corrupted – e.g. Corinth). In Colossians 3:1-7 we see four ways we are rooted in redemption – which cost Jesus His life and is that which we celebrate at communion.

DIG

[1] Refocus – vv. 1-4

Believers must refocus on “the above things” because of what Jesus has accomplished in us. What has He accomplished? We are linked to His death which cancelled out our sin-debt. It is as if we have been **co-crucified** with Jesus (2:12)! We are now dead to the self-life – even “good” religion.

[2] Reckon – vv. 5-7

Believers must reckon their position in Christ. Satan is eager that we do not grasp our position in Christ. If he can tempt us to forget our position, he can hinder us from living it out in practice. We are to “reckon as dead” those “upon the earth things” - compares with “above things” (v. 1)

[3] Remove – vv. 8-11

Removing or “putting off” (i.e. stripping off a filthy garment) must be decisive. Jesus’ death frees from the penalty and power of sin. This new man is constantly being renewed – not patched up. We are being filled with Christ. He is the “principle of unity” - only He is complete and can complete us.

[4] Replace – vv. 12-17

Here the action is to “put on” several key Christian “clothes”:

- *heart of compassion* - bowels (lit.) of tenderness, pity from the heart
- *kindness* - plus humility (lowliness of thinking) - not at all virtues in Paul's day, nor ours!()
- *gentleness* - a meek (obedient submissiveness or power in restraint) consideration of others
- *longsuffering* - being patient and waiting, not retaliatory
- *bearing with one another* - enduring the burden of others
- *forgive* - which literally is “gracing” one another

In verse 14 we arrive at our objective which is living together in God's love – “let love bind you together”. Love is above all else (I Corinthians 13:13) and is the (lit.) “the bond of completeness”. Love is the indication of maturity and God’s work taking hold in our corporate experience.

If each of us can lean to glory in the fact that we matter little except in relation to the Body, and if each will acknowledge the worth in ever other member, then perhaps the cells of Christ’s Body will be acting as He intended.

Dr. Paul Brand in *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* (Zondervan,1987, 41)

Welcome & Warning For Communion

When we are living in love, and are unified, this means we are under the coordination of the Head. Who is the Head? Colossians 1:17-20 tells us that Jesus is the unifying reality of Creation...and He also Head of the Church.



We are to come into God's presence with worshipful awe...yet joyful confidence, certain of His saving grace (see Hebrews 4:14-16). Communion is the "Lord's Table," and He is our host.

We must also come to communion with pure heart. Psalm 51 (vv. 1-4,9-12,16-17) helps us.

*Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.
Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin!
For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.
Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.
Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it;
You will not be pleased with a burnt offering. Our sacrifice, O God,
is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

The Bread

Read I Corinthians 11:23-24 and reflect on these lyrics...

*King of my life, I crown Thee now
Thine shall the glory be
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow
Lead me to Calvary
Lest I forget Gethsemane
Lest I forget Thine agony
Lest I forget Thy love for me
Lead me to Calvary*

The Cup

Read I Corinthians 11:25-26 and reflect on these lyrics...

*For nothing good have I
Where-by Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calvary's Lamb.
Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

REFLECT

Let's find our help in Him! Please pray for needs in our church and beyond...

- Those suffering with COVID-19
- Students, teachers, staff returning to school
- Timberline Ranch is in need of kitchen help this fall
- New rental contract for WCES
- Crisis in Afghanistan and Haiti

Let's find our hope in Him! Please read these verses from Romans (vv. 1-2,11,18,28,31-32,35,37-39)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Please watch and reflect on this video...

[Christ Our Hope In Life And Death](#) by Keith and Krystin Getty