

COMMUNION

WHEN WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE, IT REQUIRES A RESPONSE.

One of those responses could be taking communion.

The Origins of Communion

Communion began in the Old Testament and continues today. When the Israelites were being set free from the power of Egypt by God, the Spirit of Death came and would 'passover' the doors that had blood on them. In the Old Testament, the meal was unleavened bread and lamb. Life is in the blood. (*Leviticus 17:11*) There is no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood.

(*Hebrews 9:22*) In the New Testament the perfect lamb was Jesus Christ. It was His body and His blood given and poured out for your forgiveness.

Communion shows both the bread and the drink as a representation of Jesus' body and blood. Paul speaks of communion in

1 CORINTHIANS 11:24-26

24...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me. 25 In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

1 CORINTHIANS 11:27

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.

When taking communion you can take it with a prayer team member, a friend, a family member you came with, or by yourself. Paul is talking to Christians on how to take communion. Please consider taking communion if Jesus is Lord of your life, if you are a Christian.

Communion gives three time references correlating the character of God. To remember the past, proclaim His return, and the power of the present. These affiliate us to the God who is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore.

1. Remembrance

Do it in remembrance. Remember Jesus; His life, His Words, His heart, His miracles, and the cross and resurrection. Consider these as you take communion. How can you reflect on how God has been faithful in the past?



2. Present

Examining yourself before taking communion makes you aware of the Presence of God and makes you pay attention to the present. Ask the Holy Spirit if there is any offense with someone else that you need to make right whether it's through forgiveness or reconciliation. Following Jesus is about progression not perfection. You don't have to be perfect to take communion, just honest. Freely forgive, confess, and come before God in His mercy.

3. Forevermore

Proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes is to be thought about. Think about your response to God knowing that communion is to remind you of His inevitable return in the future. How will you take communion today knowing He is returning in the future?

1 CORINTHIANS 11:28-31

28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.

A caution is to not drink it in an unworthy manner. There is a command in the Word to fear God. Out of reverence and honor, you are to live your life in the presence of a Holy God. You are to consider His strong Presence, His holiness, and His love, power and mercy as you take communion. Taking it in a worthy manner is honoring who God is – Holy. How do you take communion in a worthy manner?

Discerning the body is to take into consideration that you are taking communion personally, but it's connected to your life being an influence to others. Take communion considering your relationship within the family of God or as part of the body of Christ. Anyone you need to forgive or any relationship that needs reconciling?

As you begin to take communion, judge yourself under the leading of the Holy Spirit inside of you. The inferred promise is to drink to consume God's life, strength and health. One piece of food brought sin into this world. The elements of communion can bring life, healing and strength through the power of God instead of being weak, ill and dead spiritually.

When you're ready, take the bread, and give thanks.

When you're ready, take the cup, and give thanks.

Other Scriptures to read for Communion:

EXODUS 12:1-27
LEVITICUS 17:11
HEBREWS 9:22

