

Communion

NT accounts of Communion

- Matthew 26:26–30
- Mark 14:22–26
- Luke 22:14–20
- 1 Cor 11:17–34

Names

- Communion
- Lord's Supper
- Eucharist:
 - εὐχαριστέω (eucharistéō)
 - “be thankful”, “give thanks”

Exodus 12 - Passover observance changed

- Passover
 - Looks back
 - Thankful remembrance
 - Redemption
 - By an act of God
 - Sacrifice - Passover lamb
- Communion
 - Looks back
 - Thankful remembrance
 - Redemption
 - By an act of God
 - Sacrifice - Lamb of God

Feeding on Christ

- Baptism has a once-for-all nature
- Communion is repeated
- John 6:35 - *“I am the Bread of Life”*
- John 6:55 - *“My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed”*

Fellowship with Christ - κοινωνία (koinonia)

“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?”

(1 Cor 10:16)

- Spiritual intimacy with...

Pledge of Loyalty

“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake at the table of the Lord and the table of demons.”

(1 Cor 10:21-22)

Unity of Christian People

“Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf” (1 Cor 10:17)

“anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord”
(1 Cor 11:29)

Practice of the Early Church

“they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

“at Troas...on the first day of the week... gathered together to break bread”
(Acts 20:5-7)

Didache “The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles”

- Greek document dated from 50-150 AD
 - Found by Bryennios - Constantinople in 1873

On the Lord's own day gather together and break bread and give thanks, having first confessed your sins so that your sacrifice may be pure.

in an unworthy manner – 1 Cor 11:27-29

- Member of a Gospel preaching church?
- Come with unconfessed sin
 - Disregard the true meaning
 - Forget the price of our salvation
 - Allow to become a dead ritual
- Have an issue? Let it pass you by...

Jesus took the bread, gave thanks and broke it

- Same 3 actions in feeding of 5k and 4k
 - Only miracle in all four gospels
- Jesus miraculously fed the multitudes
 - “Bread of Life” discourse (John 6:22-40)
 - *People needed life, not food and life is a gift*
Food sustains life, Jesus gives eternal life

This is my body, which is for you

- As a substitute
- To pay the penalty for our sin
- So that we might receive eternal life
- *Substitutionary atonement*
 - Isaiah 53:6, Isaiah 53:12
 - Rom 3:25, 2 Cor 5:21, Gal 3:13

Do this in remembrance of me

- This specific instruction is found only in Luke 22:19 and 1 Corinthians 11:24
 - Breaking of bread was a regular practice
 - Matthew and Mark thought it unnecessary

In the same way also he took the cup

- Cups of Passover - Exodus 6:6-8
 - Sanctification: *"I will bring you out...*
 - Deliverance: *"I will rescue you...*
 - Redemption: *"I will redeem you...*
 - Praise: *"I will take you as My people...*
- Cup after the meal is the third cup

This is my blood of the [new] covenant

And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

(Ex 24:8)

- Linking the New Covenant (Jer 31:31–34)

Poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins

“without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins” (Heb. 9:22)

- Communion & substitutionary atonement
*because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors*
(Isaiah 53:12)

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Cor 11:26)

- Passover (Haggādāh) - legend, parable, tale
- Proclaim
 - καταγγέλλω (katangéllō) - laud, celebrate

Communion

- A privilege given to His people
 - Rely on Him
 - Be with Him
 - Remain loyal to Him
 - Stand united with one another

Thank the Lord...

- For what He's done in your life & church
- For the gift of brothers & sisters in Christ
- For what He will do when He comes again