

Communion

WHAT IS COMMUNION?

The word "Communion" is derived from the Greek word "Koinonia".

Webster's Bible Dictionary defines communion as:

1. *The act of sharing; possession in common participation --- a communion of interest.*
2. *The act of sharing one's thoughts and emotions with another or others.*
3. *An intimate relationship with deep understanding.*
4. *A group of Christians professing the same faith and practicing the same rites, denomination.*
5. *A sharing in, or celebration of, the Eucharist, or Holy Communion."*

{**EUCARIST**: the sacrament (holy ordinance) of the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion; a celebration of giving thanks for the sacramental bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ {Also called, the Divine Liturgy, the Mass, Holy Ordinance}.

Holy Communion is further defined as:

"Various Christian rites in which bread and wine are consecrated and received as the body and blood of Jesus or as symbols of them; a Sacrament of the Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper."

{**SACRAMENT**: a solemn oath, a vow. An observance of certain rites as ordained by Christ and observed by Christians such as Baptism and the Eucharist, (The Lord's Supper). Communion, is a holy meal which symbolizes the new covenant. It is the communion between believers and God and believers with one another commemorating the sufferings of Christ; His death, resurrection, and His imminent return. Communion is a time of consecration, a time when we affirm our belief in God's faithfulness and seek to serve Him in holiness and a time to receive by faith His many provisions. It's a time of examination, forgiveness, and renewal, and a time of remembrance resulting in healing of the spirit, soul, and body. .

THE SCRIPTURAL (BIBLE) BASIS FOR COMMUNION

To the disciples and to us Jesus said:

I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. Luke 22:15 NIV

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 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.

1 Corinthians 11:23 HCSB

The Levites offered the blood of unblemished lambs as an atonement for the sins of Israel each year. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, offered Himself once to bear the sins of the whole world.

Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. John 1:29 KJV

As the Jews were delivered physically from death by the substitute of the blood of a lamb, we are delivered spiritually from eternal death, that is permanent separation from God, by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Communion is a reminder of the divine provision of His new and everlasting covenant:

In the same way, after supper He also took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 HCSB

As partakers of the Ordinance and Lifestyle of Holy Communion, the family of God acknowledges God as our Father, and Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus' sacrifice is our singular hope for eternal life.

Do remember this as you partake of communion.

And this is love: that we walk according to His commands. This is the command as you have heard it from the beginning: you must walk in love.

2 John 1:6 HCSB

THE BREAD (THE BODY) AND WINE (BLOOD)

The bread (the broken body) and the wine (the shed blood) become more than symbols or emblems as we reflect on the death of our Lord. They become the essence of our hope for eternal life, the provision made by Christ for all mankind... Jew or Gentile... bond or free... male or female.

And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

John 6:35 NKJV

Read and meditate on Jesus' words in John 6:50-59 AKJV

WHO SHOULD PARTAKE OF COMMUNION?

The partaking of Communion demonstrates remembrance of the work accomplished by the Lord's death until He comes. Obviously, the one who awaits the returning of our Lord is the prime candidate at the Lord's table. What about the person who has not accepted Jesus Savior? The person who does not receive by faith Christ's substitutionary work of redemption and His accomplished works has no right or place at the table of the Lord.

All baptized believers in Christ are welcomed and are honored guests at the Lord's Supper. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spirit-minded is life and peace.

Romans 8:6-8 KJV

Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Romans 6:14 NAS95

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

John 6:53 NIV

HOW SHOULD WE APPROACH THE LORD'S TABLE?

The first words by Christ to us after commanding that we partake of the bread and wine in remembrance of Him were these:

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself...

1 Corinthians 11:27-28 NAS95

WARNING: COMMUNION MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Matthew 5:23-24 NAS95

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

1 Corinthians 11:27, 30 NASB

Let us judge ourselves that we not be condemned with the world.

THESE ARE THE WORKS OF THE FLESH. FROM SUCH TURN AWAY:

Now the practices of the sinful nature are clearly evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), idolatry, [c]sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions [that promote heresies], envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior, and other things like these. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:21 AMP

HOW OFTEN SHOULD ONE TAKE COMMUNION?

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26 NAS95

Daily (Acts 2:46)...

Weekly (Acts 20:7)...

Anytime 1 Corinthians 11:26 NAS95

WHO SHARES COMMUNION?

Father, Son, and Christians - 1 John 1:3 NKJV Christ and Christians - 1 Corinthians 1:9 NKJV
Holy Spirit and Christians - Philippians 2:1 NLT Apostles - Acts 2:42 TLB
Believers - 1 John 1:7 GW

WHAT IS SHARED IN COMMUNION?

Material Things -	2 Corinthians 8:10-15 TLB
Sharing in His Sufferings -	Philippians 3:10 The Voice
Privileges -	Philippians 1:5 KJV
Mystery of God's Wisdom -	Ephesians 3:9 ASV
The promise: of the Holy Spirit -	Galatians 3:13-14 NAS95

WHY DO WE NEED A COMMON FELLOWSHIP? *All Scriptures in this section are NIV*

For God's Blessing in Unity - Psalm 133:1-3	Teaching & Fellowship - Acts 2:42
Demonstration of Love - 1 Peter 3:8	Accomplishing God's Work - Nehemiah 4:1-3
Hope as a Body - Hebrews 11:39-40	Show Covenant Friendship - 1 Samuel 20:42
Suffering Together - Daniel 3:16-30	Sharing with Others - 2 Corinthians 8:41-15

If someone says, "I love God," and yet he hates his brother or sister, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother and sister whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God must also love his brother and sister.
1 John 4:20-21 NASB

COMMUNION AND THE KOINONIA LIFESTYLE

Koinonia is the Greek word for communion. This same word, "koinonia" is used for friendship, partnership, for union, and for contribute. But also, the word "koinonia" holds the meaning that each of these actions are put into effect by the Holy Spirit. This expression "koinonia" is the essence of fellowship in the Church and the lifestyle commended by Christ:

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Mark 12:31 HCSB

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. So the body is not one part but many.

1 Corinthians 12:13-14 HCSB

THE RESULTS OF THE KOINONIA LIFESTYLE

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Then fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 HCSB

The results of the Koinonia Lifestyle is unity and harmony, sharing God's love and allowing that true love to spill-over into the highways and by-ways of life compelling the lost by its warmth and provision. Life begets life!

THE WORLD WILL BE WON AS WE BECOME ONE

"I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message.

May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent me."

John 17:20-23 HCSB

Communion is not only a sacrament to remind us of the sacrifice made for us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus, but is also a lifestyle of love, fellowship, unity and sacrifice for others who are members of the family of God.

COMMUNION SERVICE

PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE COMMUNION

Approach the Lord's table by soberly examining yourself for hidden sin in your heart.
Let us pray as David prayed...

You have placed our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

Psalm 90:8 NAS95

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.*

Psalm 139:23-24 NAS95

PREPARE THE ELEMENTS: CONSECRATION OF THE BREAD AND WINE

The act of consecrating wine and bread for the purpose of partaking of the Lord's Supper was a regular practice of the early church that continues in the sacramental Church. Consecration means to **Pray** over the wine and bread as follows.

1. Heavenly Father bless and sanctify this bread and wine, and set them apart as holy; Make them sacred for this communion.
2. Lift the bread and wine to honor Jesus' sacrifice; This is a memorial service. It is a mystical sacrament and act of worship.
3. Dedicate the elements with reverence and honor. They should not be treated as common but as holy and hallowed unto God as an act of worship.

The cup of blessing that we give thanks for, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for all of us share that one bread.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 HCSB

This scripture points to the practice within the first century Church of commemorating the Lord's death by partaking of Communion, the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist or the Lord's Supper daily from house to house. The word Eucharist translated from the Greek means "thanksgiving." As we partake in it together we celebrate with thanksgiving for Jesus' unspeakable gift.

PARTAKE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER (IN MEMORY OF HIM)

... the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 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.

(Partake of the bread)

In the same way, He took the cup also after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

(Drink the cup)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NAS95

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! It is like fine oil on the head, running down on the beard, running down Aaron's beard onto his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon falling on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord has appointed the blessing—life forevermore.

Psalm 133 HCSB

*A variety of Bible translations and paraphrases have been used in the **Quick Notes** for clarity.
We recommend www.biblegateway.com as a Bible resource and study aid.



www.visiblelight.org

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