

Sermon Questions

Communion God's Way
1 Corinthians 11:17–32
Pastor Jeff Hinds

CONNECT:

- How often did you attend a Lord's Supper/Communion/Eucharist service growing up? Was it meaningful for you?

GROW:

- For context, read Exodus 12:7-13. What did the Passover feast commemorate?
- Read Luke 22:1, 14-20. First, what do we learn about Jesus's desire to be with His people? What new thing does Jesus do with the Passover celebration (see also John 1:29 and 1 Corinthians 5:7)?
- Now read 1 Corinthians 11:17-32. What attitude does Paul confront in verses 17-22? What is the ultimate aim of the people who are acting in this way?
- Contrast that attitude with what Paul says in verses 23-26 about the focus of the Lord's Supper. What primary difference do you notice?
- The Passover commemorates Israel's liberation from slavery. What does Jesus liberate us from?
 - Romans 6:6-7, 11?
 - Hebrews 2:14-15?
 - John 3:16-18, 1 Thessalonians 1:9, and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9?
- How do you appropriate the warnings of 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 into your own life and into your preparation to take the Lord's Supper? How do you appropriate Jesus' comment in Luke 22:15 as you share in the Lord's Supper with other believers and with Jesus?

GO:

- Going forward, how will these understandings help you as you celebrate the Lord's Supper?

Sermon Notes

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1. Jesus alone is the adequate payment (atonement) for sin. He alone is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). However, His payment for sin, death (His atonement), is only effectual for those who believe in Him as Savior and Lord (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:9–10; Ephesians 2:8–9).
2. Jesus uses metaphorical language to describe the elements: This is My body, this is My blood (1 Corinthians 11:17–34). We take these words metaphorically, as Jesus often used metaphors when describing Himself. He called Himself:
 - Bread (John 6:35, 48, 51)
 - Light (John 8:12; 9:5)
 - The Gate (John 10:7–9)
 - The Good Shepherd (John 10:11–14)
 - The Resurrection (John 11:25)
 - A Road—the Way (John 14:6)
 - The True Vine (John 15:1–5)
3. In addition, Jesus was only crucified once—those who teach that the elements become the body and blood of Jesus affirm a re-crucifixion of Jesus at every eucharistic service. This does not square with Hebrews 9:25–28; 10:11–12. We believe that the elements represent the body and the blood of Jesus.
4. Jesus warns us to examine ourselves prior to partaking of the elements lest we eat or drink judgment upon ourselves. Self-examination includes:
 - a. Making sure that one is a Christ-follower prior to partaking of communion.
 - b. Making sure that one is confessed-up prior to communion.
 - c. Making an attitude of worship prior to communion.

