

A Three-Fold Communion Service is a picture of the three-fold ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives. There are three aspects, His past ministry on the Cross, His present ministry in Heaven, and His future ministry also in Heaven.

The **past** ministry of Christ is our Salvation, His sacrifice on the Cross. We take the bread and the cup as a remembrance of His Death for our sins. (1 Cor. 10-11) {1 Cor. 10:16* Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?}

The **present** ministry of Christ at the right hand of the Father is our Sanctification, His intercessory work on our behalf. We practice the feet washing because it reminds us of our need to confess our sins. Since we walk in this sinful world, we do not need to "bathe" again because we are already saved, but we do need to "wash our feet" because we need to confess our sins so that He may cleanse us and forgive us of our sins. This is not an act of humility of my washing your feet, but rather it is an act of humility in admitting to you that I need washing of my feet for I have sinned by walking in this sinful world. The key thought here is to be in an attitude of confession while our feet are being washed. It is a moment of serious inner reflection and confession. That is why we have feet washing before the bread and the cup, so that we might be cleansed, and be worthy of the bread and cup of our Lord. (John 13, 1 John 1:9) {1 Cor. 11:28* But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.}

The **future** ministry of Christ is presenting us to Himself as His Bride at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, our Glorification. This is the meal time where we have fellowship with one another as we celebrate together our future glorification and our eternal union with Christ. (Rev. 19) {Rev. 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."}

In conclusion, the order is first, celebration for our future by coming together for the token meal, then confession of our sins to align ourselves to Him by humbling ourselves before Him by allowing our feet to be washed, and last but not least, to have communion with Him by remembering His sacrifice for us.