

PRACTISING COMMUNION

A LESSON IN SHOWING THE LORD'S DEATH

*"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church,
and gave himself for it;"*

~ Ephesians 5:25

1. Why Communion

- a. Communion is the distinctly Pauline teaching of the one body - 1 Cor 10:16-17
- b. We are many members, but one body – Rom 12:5, Eph 4:4
- c. None of the disciples knew of the one body in Matt 26:26, Mark 14:22, Luke 22:19
- d. Jesus: "the flesh profits nothing" John 6:63; Paul: meat is nothing – 1Cor 8:8
- e. There is no sacrament, or solemn religious ceremony being instituted.
- f. The church comes together to eat, why? To show the Lord's death – 1Cor 11:26

2. How Our Communion Happened

- a. The gospel of our salvation → Christ died for our sins – Rom 4:25, 1 Cor 15:3
- b. His death accomplished more for us than just forgiveness – Eph 2:12-17
- c. After we believed we were sealed with the Holy Spirit into one body – Eph 1:13, 3:6
- d. The Spirit identified us, sealed us, into the body of Christ - 1 Cor 12:12-14
- e. We have communion with the body and the blood of Christ – 1 Cor 10:16-17

3. Showing the Lord's Death

- a. How does coming together to eat show the Lord's death, his finished work?
- b. It is not by the expression on our faces, or the molecules of the food and drink
- c. Isn't everyone supposed to work for their own bread? – 1 Thess 3:7-12
- d. BUT... the husband works to provide nourishment - Eph 5:25-30
- e. Paul gave himself and spent for them, why? – 1 Thess 2:7-9, 2 Cor 12:15
- f. Did the Lord eat his own bread? Did he live and die for himself? – 1 Cor 11:20-26
- g. He took bread and drink and gave it to them (also his body and blood)
- h. "To live is Christ, and to die is gain", "I am crucified" - Gal 2:20

4. Practising Communion

- a. Christ died for us while we were still sinners – Rom 5:8
- b. We are baptized into his death, crucified with him - Rom 6:3-4
- c. We show the Lord's death in examining ourselves and reckoning ourselves dead
 - i. Examine yourselves - 1 Cor 11:28, cf. Matt 20:21-23, 26:39,42
 - ii. Reckon yourself dead as Christ also died – Rom 6:11
- d. The Lord took the wrong for our sakes, and gave us the good – Rom 6:23
- e. The church eats to remember the bread and cup of the Lord's death for us.
- f. We are all one body, and are all partakers of that one bread – 1 Co 10:17
- g. Whatever we do, it is to the glory of God for each other – 1 Cor 10:24,31-33
- h. Eating together allows us to give of ourselves for each other
- i. By providing one for another, we show his death working in us til he come