

COMING TOGETHER IN PERSON

A COMMUNION STRENGTHENED BY PARTICIPATION

*"Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat,
tarry one for another."*

~ 1 Corinthians 11:33

1. Communion

- a. A doctrine not drink, a body not bread, a truth not taste, a position not performance
- b. We all been redeemed by His blood and are members of His Body.
- c. We have a common Saviour, service, duty to grow up into Christ and do his will.
- d. We are all instructed to walk in service to one another in the same mind and love.
- e. This takes practice, it is realized/strengthened by personal participation together.

2. Going to Church

- a. Saying 'go to church' is as trite as saying 'eat your vegetables'
- b. The church is people (not a person, and not a building)
- c. You are a member, but the church is not one member - 1 Cor 12:13-14
- d. Church is when members 'come together' ... for the better - 1 Cor 11:17
 - i. In communion (common union) - 1 Cor 11:18
 - ii. In one place - 1 Cor 11:20
 - iii. To discern the Lord's body - 1 Cor 11:29 (edify/increase/strengthen)
 - iv. Corinth was not doing this, but was exhorted to - 1 Cor 11:33

3. Partakers of One Bread

- a. Christ calls himself bread (Jn 6:35, 51) but now calls us one bread - 1 Cor 10:17
- b. The mystery is not real bread made His body, but real people made His body.
- c. We don't come together to partake in food, but of the body of Christ - Eph 3:6
- d. Partake ~def. To take part, in common with others; to participate.
- e. Coming together in person is to know, grow, rejoice, encourage, see Christ in us.

4. A Stronger Communion

- a. The Spirit seals us, Christ completes us, nothing can separate us - Rom 8:39
- b. What we do when we come together in person:
 - i. Sing, eat, ask, restore, reprove, rejoice, refresh, support, example, receive...
 - ii. We come to the same mind, understanding, judgment - 1Cor 1:10, Col 1:9
 - iii. Knit together in love, assurance, strength (comfort) - Col 2:1-2
 - iv. Nourished from every joint and band holding the Head - Col 2:19, Eph 4:16
 - v. Be of one spirit, accord, likeminded, same love, one mind - Phi 1:27, 2:1-4
- c. Our communion in Christ is stronger when we come together in person for His sake.