

OUR COMMON FELLOWSHIP

THE COMMUNION OF THE MYSTERY

*"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?
The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"*

~ 1 Corinthians 10:16

1. Division over Communion

- a. Historical irony: there has been much division in the church over communion.
- b. Biblical irony: we don't know of 'communion' w/o Corinthian division – 1Cor 1:10, 10:16
- c. The argument is over what, how, when we eat (what's for dinner? & table manners)
- d. Error is making what is put in mouths sacred/holy – Mt 15:11-20, Jn 6:35+63, 1Cor 8:8
- e. Communion is a fellowship not food, body not bread, and doctrine, not a dinner.

2. The Fellowship of the Mystery

- a. We are to be established and communicate the mystery of Christ - Rom 16:25, Eph 3:9
- b. This fellowship is with the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord – 1Cor 1:9, Phi 1:5, Rom 1:16
- c. The mystery is 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' - Col 1:25-27
- d. All things will have their common union in him - Eph 1:10
- e. Our communion is the fellowship of the mystery.

3. The Unity of the Body of Christ

- a. Our communion is of the body of Christ (not a real cup and bread) – 1 Cor 10:16
- b. We are one body; we are one bread – 1 Cor 10:17
- c. Christ the head of the one Body – Col 1:18, Eph 5:23, 30, 32, 1:22-23
- d. One body, members one of another – Rom 12:5, 1 Cor 12:12-13, 17
- e. This one new man is a new creature – 2 Cor 5:17, Eph 2:15-16
- f. Our unity found in the faith of the fullness of Christ's body – Eph 4:3 and Eph 4:12-13

4. What We Have in Common

- a. Our communion is what we have in common.
- b. Our communion with the Father, Son, Spirit - 2 Cor 13:14, Phi 1:5, 2:1
- c. Communion said to be with righteousness, light, Christ, belief – 2 Cor 6:14-16
- d. Communion ~def. Fellowship, a common body, partakers together, agreement, concord.
- e. Eph 3:6 – fellowship with Christ, same body of Christ, partakers of his promise in Christ
 - i. (The partaking is not of bread and drink, but of salvation in Christ.)
- f. Partakers of the promise, same body (baptized, all one), heirs - Gal 3:22, 24-29

5. To Rejoice Together in Christ

- a. When people commune, they meet, they talk, they eat together.
- b. Our communion is together, to rejoice in being one together with Christ.
- c. Paul says to Corinth, "as ye eat [together]... ye do show" - 1 Cor 11:26, 33
- d. The Lord's death made us one, we remember it in all things - 1 Cor 10:31
- e. Remember Christ, but now in you, in me, in us acc. to the fellowship of the mystery.
- f. We come together as one body, with one Spirit, with one hope, one faith – Eph 4:4-6
- g. To rejoice in our unity with the Lord, today, we all eat the same food at the same table.
- h. Christ is not the food, not in the food, not with the food, but Christ is in us all.