

HOW WE COMMUNE WITH GOD

HONORING OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST

"And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God."

~ Colossians 2:19

1. Church Fellowship

- a. At the heart of the church is communion and fellowship, but maybe not as you think.
- b. In many minds, communion describes a religious ritual (bread and drink, re-sacrifice)
- c. In many minds, church fellowship is used in the same sentence as fun and people.
- d. This is why church turns into the two headed monster of ritual and relationships.
- e. Some emphasize relation (community churches), others ritual and tradition (liturgical) ... both risk "not holding the Head" over misunderstanding communion - Col 2:19

2. Communion with God

- a. The church is a Body not a building – people not a place – people come together.
- b. Communion ~def. A fellowship; common union; concord, partaking together with.
- c. The unique communion the church has is with God - 2 Cor 5:18-21, 13:14, 1 Cor 1:9
- d. The Head of the church (not the pope or people) is what holds us together - Col 2:19
- e. The church is unnecessary to bring people together without this communion.
- f. Church exists to teach, partake, grow, remember, honor, and praise *that* communion.

3. How Do We Commune with God

- a. Don't make communion with God garden-walking, mystical, misleading inner feelings
- b. We commune with God through salvation:
 - i. There is no communion w/o reconciliation by Lord Jesus Christ – Eph 2:12-18
 - ii. Communing with blood of Christ is salvation (not bread and cup) - 1Cor 10:16
- c. We commune with God through His words and will: 1 Tim 2:4
 - i. Receive nourishment from the Head through word of God/prayer – 1 Tim 4:4-6
 - ii. To know this fellowship leads to being 'filled' with God (not food) – Eph 3:6,9 19
 - iii. True doctrine works from the Head down to every joint to edify – Eph 4:14-16
 - iv. If church doesn't give doctrinal agreement/understanding, it fails this fellowship
- d. We commune with God in sufferings and ministry: Col 1:24
 - i. In troubles and our response to sin - 2 Cor 2:10 (Eph 4:32), 4:8-10
 - ii. To live is to know Christ (not other people) - Phi 1:21-27, 3:10, 4:11-13
- e. We get life from Him. We learn from Him. We live in Him. We look for Him – Col 3:1
 - i. If you want Christ formed in you, you need this communion – Gal 2:20, 4:19

4. Our Communion Together

- a. The church consists of those in communion with God who want to commune with God.
- b. Our communion with God is what brings us together in this fellowship - Eph 3:6
- c. 1 Cor 11:26 -When those in communion with God eat together it shows his death, *why?*
 - i. Because they come together as ones he saved by his death, as ones he redeems by His Blood, and as ones in whom He lives by faith.
 - ii. We are His church, purchased with God's own blood - Acts 20:28
- d. When we come together to eat, drink, or whatsoever, we do so as the Lord's Body.