

A NORMAL COMMUNION

TO CONFORM OR NOT TO CONFORM

*"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. Are You Normal?

- a. Our latest series treats spiritual problems (sin) with God's word, faith, Jesus Christ.
- b. *Are you normal? Should you be normal? Are we all normal? What if I am abnormal?*
- c. Normal ~def. Conforming to the standard; typical, patterned; average; common traits.
- d. "I am not normal," can be read two different ways, two different problems.
- e. Solving the 'normal' problem requires spiritual realignment, a renewed mind - Eph 4:23

2. Wrong Ambition

- a. "I am not normal... because I am special." "Pursue your dreams!" "Live the best life!" "Do great things!" "Reach for the stars!"
- b. Christian version "God made you special/perfect plan for your life." - Rom 12:2
- c. For many, the Bible is too broad/general. They need fresh revelation, special anointing.
- d. The ambitious despise being normal, common, not being extraordinary, rare, unique.
- e. Ambition ~def. An earnest desire (strife) for success, achievement, distinction, honor.
- f. Good kind → creates zeal, conviction, purpose, and good works (not apathy, idleness, inactivity, indifference). 'It is good to be zealous...in a good thing' - Gal 4:18
- g. Bad kind → Striving for vainglory, pride, pretension, arrogance, conceit, self-importance the opposite of humility, satisfaction, peace, contentment, charity - Phi 2:3
- h. Wrong ambition hurts when the reality of the ordinary hits you, you are no exception.
- i. Ambition becomes sinful when it is not in the pursuit of God and His glory. 1Co 1:29-31
- j. God did not save us because we are special, but because He is - Rom 3:9, 5:8
- k. If you want to be like no one else, then you want to be like God - Isa 14:13-14

3. Wrong Submission

- a. "I am not normal...because I'm strange." "Everyone else lives normal lives." "I never fit in" "I don't belong." "No one else accepts me, likes me, loves me."
- b. The Christian variety "we are all in this together" "love and unity" 1Co 12:25, 1 Tim 2:2
- c. These see being normal as good, something to be a part of, to partake of normality.
- d. Submission ~def. Yielding to power or authority. Surrender to the will of another.
- e. Longing to be normal may see Bible as making weird, isolated, alone, unique - 2Co 6:14
- f. But, when we follow the course of the world, being normal is bad - Eph 2:2
- g. Love not the world makes you abnormal to the world - 1John 2:15-16, Col 3:2, 2Ti 4:10
- h. This becomes sinful because we submit to others instead of God - Gal 1:10, 6:14

4. Our Normal Communion

- a. What God has made can help with the spiritual problem with 'normal'
- b. To the ambitious → You are not above being normal. You are typical. Rom 3:4, 3:9
 - i. To God be the glory, you won't, walk worthy - Eph 4:4

- ii. You are members one of another, a common group by faith - Rom 12:3
 - iii. You bring something unique (you), but you are one of many - Eph 4:25
- c. To the servants of men → You have a wrong standard, which is not others, but Christ.
 - i. Please God, not men – 2 Tim 2:4, 1 Cor 7:23, 2 Cor 5:9
 - ii. You are made a new creature in Christ, to be conformed to him – Rom 8:29
 - iii. Strive to partake not of the world, but of Christ – 1 Cor 10:16
- d. Communion unites us with Christ (not world), and reminds what we have in common.
- e. It realigns us with normal. We don't need a special bread; we need the right mind.
- f. We pursue glory – the glory of God. We do it together – as those with a common faith.