

DOING COMMUNION RIGHT

HOW RELIGION GETS IT WRONG

“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”

~ 1 Corinthians 11:24

1. A Broken Tradition

- a. 1 Cor 11:2 - *“keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you”*
- b. Some traditions are good to keep (2Th 2:15) – which means doing it and doing it right.
- c. The “Lord’s Supper” has turned into a provocative religious confusion.
- d. Its importance was not how and what was swallowed, but in what it showed.
- e. How else would they be delivered? 1st century was just as confused about why.
- f. A tradition is broken if you don’t know why. Why do we come together?
- g. The true meaning of communion has been lost; men do not see the mystery of Christ.

2. An Instruction to Do

- a. We are saved by grace (the work of Christ). The work is done. We receive it by faith.
 - i. We do not cooperate, supplement, participate in that work. It is done.
- b. There is an instruction he gave: come together, remember a day, keep the meal.
- c. Ye come together (1Cor 11:18) in the church (18) in one place (20) to show ... (26)
- d. Paul “received of the Lord” (23) → “this do” (24) “this do ye” (25) “ye do shew” (26)
- e. Religion would have us not eat (fast), but we’re expressly told to eat supper together
- f. *“Do you do communion?”* – I do. We do. (But do *you* understand the doctrine?)
- g. You can only do it together in the church (cannot do it alone - unlike your eating 21,34)
- h. Communion is a doctrine, and something we must do, and that to the Lord.

3. A Day to Remember

- a. The world has special days. Religions have sacred days. What day do we do this thing?
- b. Under grace we don’t observe calendar days as holy → Col 2:16, Gal 4:9-11
- c. The instruction is to do it any day and “as often” - 1 Cor 11:26 (not a set calendar day)
 - i. This guards against observing the time instead of the holding the truth.
- d. We are told to remember a day (but not today, not the day of our meeting) - 11:23
 - i. How? With pins, banners, moments of silence, sadness, ashes, palm leaves? No.
- e. 11:24-25 - *“this do in remembrance of me”* -He gives his body/blood for us to eat/drink
- f. The day we remember is not the “night”, but the day he died for us - 11:26
- g. Paul instructs us to glory in the cross, which brought us together - Gal 6:14, Eph 2:16
- h. *“till he come”* - we remember his resurrection, his revelation of grace, his return.
- i. When he comes this day of grace will be over. We eat in remembrance of his grace.

4. A Meal to Keep

- a. How do they remember the day and show his death? By eating and drinking.
- b. “as often as ye eat” “when ye come together to eat” – 11:26,33
- c. Now, the religious ideas come back. What do we eat? How is it prepared? Distributed?

- d. The meal is Christ (not for digestion) – the message of Christ (for introspection)
 - i. Eating is for living: we live by what we put in our mouth. Matt 4:4, 1 Cor 10:4-5
 - ii. Eating is for pleasure: we enjoy what is put in our mouth. Ps 119:103, Jer 15:16
 - iii. We put food on tongues that we use to speak - Jer 1:9, Eph 4:15, Rom 10:8
- e. The message is the meal (as stomachs grumble). The message is Christ in us (mystery)
 - i. If we come together to eat food, without eating His words – we have a problem.
 - ii. Christ is the meat and the drink we believe and receive. John 6:35
 - iii. We are His Body – one bread – we receive all in Christ. 1 Cor 10:16-17
 - iv. Religion makes it about the bread & cup and not the Body of Christ - 1Co 12:27
 - v. The bread and cup we receive together is the communion of Christ and his Body
 - vi. If you believe and receive Christ, you can eat, and that considering each other.
- f. Lord's death gave grace – when we eat together, we show love/grace to each other.
- g. We eat due to Christ in us, fellowship together, the mystery of Christ, our communion.
- h. Paul tells them to remember what Christ did for us and eat accordingly (do all things)