

The love of God will produce within us a **love for God** that overflows in caring for those within the body of Christ. God's love will create a desire for us to seek to understand and serve those who are different than us. **1 John 4:7-11**

It matters to God what we think about and how we treat others.

Fear of Failure: I may sin against the God I love.

Fact of Failure: I already have sinned against God.

Forgiveness of Failure: Jesus is my Advocate when I sin. **1 John 2:1, Hebrews 4:14-16**

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Proverbs 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

"Ah, Peter! Thou hast denied the best, the most loving, the most tender, the most generous, the most compassionate, the most self-denying, the most pure, the most heavenly of leaders. If there had been some fault in Him, if He had played thee false, if He had been unkind to thee, if He had promised thee a wage, and had not paid thee, or if He had lied unto thee, and thou hadst found Him out, or if thou hadst seen some infirmity or imperfection about Him when thou didst watch Him in His privacy, thou mightest be excused. But to deny such a Master – mayest thou weep, and cover thy face for very shame." C.H. Spurgeon 1834-1892

1 John 1:3-4 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

1 John 1:8-2:1 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

The only thing consistent in my faith walk is my inconsistency.

Romans 3:24-26 *being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

The Lord's Supper | Communion

1 Corinthians 1:23-26 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

All three tenses are used in Communion.

- Past – "The same night in which he was betrayed." **v23**
- Present – "This do in remembrance of me." **v24**
- Future – "Ye do show the Lord's death until he comes." **v26**

All five senses are used in Communion: Hearing, Seeing, Smelling, Touching, & Tasting

Theological Views of Communion

1. Transubstantiation (Practiced by the Catholic Church): This view holds that the Priest actually presents the wine and bread to the congregation as the real body and blood of Jesus. While the elements remain as wine and bread, the substance changes supernaturally into the body and blood of Jesus.

2. Consubstantiation (Instituted by Martin Luther): That the body and blood of Christ are beside the wine and bread and present but the elements themselves (wine and bread) do not change into the body and blood of Christ.

3. Receptionism / Instrumental View (Established by John Calvin, Presbyterian): He rejected the thought of Christ's physical presence at Communion but held to Christ's spiritual presence being a part of the service. During Communion, the Holy Spirit imparts grace to those participating.

4. Memorial / Symbolic View (in context of Reformation, Ulrich Zwingli of Zurich, Switzerland clarified this view): The elements are symbolic and serve as a memorial. They serve to help us observe, remember, examine, confess, and proclaim as a part of the worship in Communion.

Christ's physical or spiritual presence is *not* a part of the Communion, *nor* is special grace imparted.