

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

I Corinthians 10:17

March 22, 2009 pm (Lord's Supper)

### INTRODUCTION

A. What we are doing here has been called many things.

1. Lord's Supper.
2. Communion--to share or fellowship.
3. Eucharist-- to show gratitude.

B. It has several purposes.

1. It's a memorial (I Corinthians 11:23-25) to commemorate or remember the death of Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 11:23-25** <sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

2. It's a proclamation (I Corinthians 11:26) of Jesus' death.

**1 Corinthians 11:26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

3. It's a self-examination (I Corinthians 11:28).

**1 Corinthians 11:28** A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

4. It's a thanksgiving (I Corinthians 10:16).

**1 Corinthians 10:16** Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

C. In I Corinthians 10:17 Paul says it's one more thing.

**1 Corinthians 10:17** Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

1. It's an expression of the oneness of the church.

2. In this way the Lord's Supper is an expression of two relationships.

a. First, it expresses a "vertical" relationship between us and God.

b. Next, it expresses a "horizontal" relationship between Christians (Acts 20:7 and I Corinthians 11:33).

**Acts 20:7** On the first day of the week we came together to break bread.

Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

**1 Corinthians 11:33** So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other.

D. How can we preserve this communal or horizontal aspect of the Lord's Supper?

I. First, Realize That Jesus Has Broken Down The Barriers That Separate Us (Ephesians 2:13-16).

**Ephesians 2:13-16** <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

**II. Second, Remember Paul's Declaration Of Our Oneness (I Corinthians 10:17).**

**1 Corinthians 10:17** Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

**III. Third, Reevaluate Our Communion With Others (I Corinthians 11:28).**

**1 Corinthians 11:28** A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

A. We should examine our relationship with God.

B. We should also examine our relationship with other Christians.

**CONCLUSION**

A. It doesn't matter whether we call what we are about to do "The Lord's Supper", "Communion", or "Eucharist".

B. It does matter that our hearts are right with God and other Christians, otherwise we're just eating a cracker and drinking some juice (Matthew 5:23-24).

**Matthew 5:23-24** <sup>23</sup> "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.