

## In Spirit and Truth – Lord’s Supper I Cor. 10:14-22

Thesis: To give us a better understanding of the Lord’s Supper.

### Introduction:

#### I. What is “communion?”

- A. We need to understand the meaning of “communion.”
  - 1. Notice Strong’s definition of “communion:”
    - a. “partnership, i.e. (literally) participation”
    - b. It is translated in the KJV as:
      - 1) communicate (sharing, contribution – NKJ)
      - 2) communion
      - 3) distribution (sharing, contribution – NKJ)
      - 4) fellowship
  - 2. Communion is that which we have in common as New Testament Christians.
    - a. It is the association that draws us together.
    - b. Because of our relationship with Christ, we can have this communion, or fellowship.
- B. To help us understand the idea of “communion,” notice how this word is used throughout the New Testament.
  - 1. Partners with one another
    - a. **Acts 2:42** - And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
    - b. **Gal. 2:9** - and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.
  - 2. Partners by giving (helping one another)
    - a. **Rom. 15:25-26** - But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. {26} For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.
    - b. **II Cor. 9:12-14** - For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, {13} while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, {14} and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.
  - 3. Partners with the Holy Spirit

- a. **II Cor. 13:14** - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

#### 4. Partners with Christ

- a. **I Cor. 1:9** - God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### 5. The idea of “communion” is summed up by John.

- a. This is not the purpose of I John, but it is a good description of fellowship.
  - b. **I Jn. 1:1-7** - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— {2} the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— {3} 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. {5} This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. {6} If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. {7} But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
  - c. In this passage, we have fellowship with each other and fellowship with the Father and Christ.
- C. When we take of the Lord’s Supper, we are in communion with Christ Himself.

## II. In communion, we take of the blood and body of Christ (10:16-17).

- A. We have a communion (fellowship, partnership) in the blood of Christ (10:16).
  - 1. Paul refers to the cup as “the cup of blessing.”
    - a. The blood that Jesus shed on the cross has great blessings attached to it.
      - 1) Forgiveness
        - a) **Eph. 1:7** - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins,
      - 2) The church
        - a) **Acts 20:28** - Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
      - 3) Peace with God
        - a) **Col. 1:19-20** - For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, {20} and by Him to



you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. {11} For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. {12} Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." {13} Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

- b) **I Cor. 3:1-3** - And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. {2} I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; {3} for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?
- 2) Paul even tells the church in Corinth not to eat the Lord's Supper while they are divided.
  - a) **I Cor. 11:17-22**
  - b) They were eating the Lord's Supper as a meal (and even that was not done together).
- 3) Today, we also need to be united as the Lord's church.
  - a) **Rom. 12:4-5** - For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, {5} so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
  - b) **I Cor. 12:12-31** – Paul talks about the need for the church to be united.

### III. There is a challenge in communion (**10:18-22**).

- A. The challenge in communion is to be separate from the world (**10:18-22**).
  - 1. Remember the context (**10:1-11**).
    - a. Paul reminds them of the sins of Israel, especially the sin of idolatry.
    - b. The problem with Israel was that they were just like the world around them.
      - 1) They worshiped these idols because they were the idols of the people that they did not drive out of Canaan.
      - 2) Even as Israel possessed the land of Canaan, they wanted to be like the nations around them.
        - a) Remember the reason that Israel wanted a king.
        - b) **I Sam. 8:4-5** - Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, {5} and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not

walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

- c) **I Sam. 8:19-20** (after Samuel tells the people how the king will act) - Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, “No, but we will have a king over us, {20} that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

3) Israel did not want to be different from the world.

- 2. Just as Israel needed to be set apart from the world, we today need to be set apart from the world.

B. Each time we commune with Christ in the Lord’s Supper, we declare that we are separate from the world.

- 1. If we are going to be pleasing to God, we must be separate from the world.

- a. **II Cor. 6:14-7:1** - Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? {15} And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? {16} And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” {17} Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” {18} “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” {1} Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

- b. **Rom. 12:2** - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- 2. We cannot live like the world and be pleasing to God.

**Conclusion:**