

Beloved Pastors,

I went back and watched the music portion of Sunday's service (11/17/2024), and the part where we sang about Moses truly resonated with me. If I recall correctly, the line about "calling out to Moses" stood out—and I have to say, the music pastor really hit those notes! The music always accompanies the worship service beautifully. Give him praise.

Inspired, I went home and opened my Bible to dig into Moses' story. I was reminded of his humanity and God's transformative power in his life.

**Exodus 2:11-12** (NIV) recounts a pivotal moment:

**11** One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.

**12** Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

This passage reveals Moses as an **imperfect** man with a growing awareness of **injustice** and a deep connection to his people. Yet, despite his flaws—even the sin of taking a life—God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. This reminds us of a profound biblical truth: God often works through **flawed** individuals to fulfill His greater purpose.

Moses' story demonstrates that while sin has consequences, repentance and obedience can lead to redemption. God doesn't seek perfection—He transforms imperfection. And that gives me hope as I reflect on my own shortcomings.

### **An Experience of Exclusion**

As you are aware, I was denied communion by a deacon at this church, who cited that it was "not biblical" for me to partake. He was influenced by the former pastor's teaching that we should not take communion "in an unworthy

manner." This deacon's actions conveyed an alarming message: that my sins are so great, I am beyond God's redemption. That I, unlike others, am unworthy of repentance and salvation.

But Scripture speaks a different truth: "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (**John 1:12**)

I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. God's children partake in communion not to assert worthiness, but to honor His grace. Communion is not a demonstration of moral perfection—it's a reminder of Christ's sacrifice and a time to draw closer to Him.

### On Judging Others

**Romans 14:4** warns us: "Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand."

The decision to partake in communion is between the individual and God, as Paul instructs in **1 Corinthians 11:28**: "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

It is not for others to gatekeep the Lord's Table, especially when Jesus Himself welcomed sinners, outcasts, and the broken. By denying me communion, the deacon assumed a role reserved for God alone. **This action risks creating division in the body of Christ and contradicts the Gospel's inclusive message of grace.**

### A Call for Reflection

I urge you to reconsider the approach being taken within the church regarding communion. The act of excluding a believer based on personal judgment undermines the humility, love, and grace that Christ modeled. We are called to encourage one another in faith, not to create barriers that drive others away from God.

As an imperfect sinner, I stand before God with gratitude for His grace. And as Paul reminds us in **Matthew 7:1-2**:

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

I pray for unity and love within the church.

May we always remember that communion is a sacred act of worship, not a tool for division. May we strive to reflect Christ's heart by drawing people to His table, not turning them away.

Thank you for your time and for considering my words. I pray for the leadership and the entire congregation as we seek to honor God together.

In Christ,

T. Van Tran

(Visitor on the front row)