

## *A Response on Communion and Unity in Christ*

*Dear Deacon,*

*I appreciate your concern for my spiritual journey, and I want to respond with honesty and reflection. I have been considering the message former senior pastor shared, particularly regarding communion and approaching it in a worthy manner. However, I believe it's important to reflect on communion's deeper purpose—unity in Christ—rather than using it as a means of exclusion.*

### **1. Communion as Christ's Invitation to All**

From my understanding of Scripture, Jesus extended the invitation to communion to all his disciples, including Judas, who would later betray him. This demonstrates that communion is not based on a person's perfection, but on Christ's grace. In **Luke 22:19-20**, Jesus says, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." Nowhere do we see Jesus using communion to divide or exclude; rather, it is an invitation to reflect and draw closer to Him.

Paul also writes in **1 Corinthians 11:28**, "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." The responsibility of worthiness is placed on personal reflection, not on others to judge.

### **2. The Church as a Place of Grace, Not Judgment**

I believe the church should be a place of grace and healing, just as Jesus welcomed sinners, tax collectors, and those considered unworthy by society. **Romans 3:23** reminds us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." If perfection or a specific declaration were required to approach the table, none of us would be worthy. Instead, Jesus calls us to come to Him, as seen in **Matthew 11:28**: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Rather than withholding communion, I believe it should be viewed as an opportunity to encounter God's grace and allow Him to work in our hearts.

### **3. Communion Should Unite, Not Divide**

Paul speaks in **1 Corinthians 10:16-17** about how communion represents our unity in Christ: "Is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body." Communion should not

be used as a tool to separate believers but as a way to bring us together in our shared need for God's mercy and love.

I fear that using communion to draw lines between who is in and who is out contradicts its original intent—bringing believers together in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice.

#### **4. A Call for Open Dialogue and Understanding**

I respect your beliefs and the desire for me to know Christ fully. My hope is that we can have open, honest discussions about faith without judgment. I believe God is working in each of us in His perfect timing, and I trust that communion is a sacred space where transformation happens—not just a reward for those deemed 'worthy' by human standards.

*I invite you to join me in praying for God's guidance and love to shape our hearts as we seek His truth together.*

*With respect and sincerity,  
Teddy*