

Communion means fellowship.

There are blessings and responsibilities of true fellowship. When we take part in "communion" we are fellowshiping with Christ, praising Him and remembering what He did for our salvation.

Christ was fully human and fully God at the same time. (Hypostatic Union) The bread is a representation of the body of Christ and the cup represents the blood of Christ.

Christ's body was human and he suffered all the punishments that we deserve. At the hands of the Romans and Jews, he was cursed, spit on, beaten, and whipped before being hung on the cross to die. Every one of these strikes represented the punishments proscribed for sins. As we take of the bread we should remember all the suffering put on Christ for our sins.

The fruit of the vine represents Christ's blood, pure undefiled, fully righteous. And as we take the cup, we should be praising God that Christ was the only righteous man to ever live and he is giving us His righteousness so we can come to God absolutely cleansed.

So as we move into a time of communion, we each need to center our thoughts on Christ. We can all help each other by expressing our own appreciation for what Christ has done through scripture reading, praying, and singing.

Bread and Fruit of the Vine

Is the bread leavened or not? Is the fruit of the vine alcoholic or not?

Different kinds really makes no difference. It's what's in the heart.

The bread and the fruit of the vine point to a SYMBOLIC AND SPIRITUAL PRESENCE of Christ with us.

Not Transubstantiation

Not Consubstantiation

1 Cor 11: 23 - 29

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 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." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- Remember Christ
- He died for us - his death brings our life, the source of our comforts and hopes.
- He pleads for us with the Father
- His grace brings our redemption

Verses 27 - 29

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

- Be aware of God's chastening for our offenses
- Set right what you know is wrong in your life

This is a solemn time, but also a celebration.

Grieve over what Jesus had to do to get our salvation, **but celebrate** what He has done in our lives.

Eph 1: 4-5 ...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he

predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

Remember His sovereign will. He chose you.

Rom 5: 7-8 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Remember His substitutionary death. He saved you.

Eph 1: 13-14 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Remember by His spirit, He has sealed you forever.

Rom 8: 38-39 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Remember His steadfast love sustains you.

Eccl 4: 9 - 12

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.