

# Communion



Communion is not about re-crucifying the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ died one time for everyone.

### Hebrews 10:10

By the which will we are sanctified through the **offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

Passover is a feast required by God's Law to be observed forever. It commemorates the time when God sent a plague to kill all of the first-born in Egypt, to force Pharaoh to release the people of Israel from slavery. Israel was protected from the plague by killing a lamb and putting its blood on the doorposts of their houses. When God saw the blood, He would pass over the house and not kill any people in that house.

### Exodus 12:5-8

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. **And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.** And they shall eat the flesh in that night,

roast with fire, **and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.**

Today's Jews know it as the Seder meal. It takes place in the home.

Exodus 12:11-14

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: **it is the LORD'S passover.** For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; **ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.**

Passover was prophetic of the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. People who believe on His shed blood will be protected from God's judgement by that belief.

Jesus' information about eating His body (as they were used to eating the Passover lamb) and blood is recorded in the Gospel of John, after the feeding of the 5000 with five barley loaves and 2 small fish. Jesus told the people who followed Him, that they did so because He fed them. He warned them not to work for food that perishes, but to work for food which brings eternal life. He would give that food to them.

### John 6:26-27

Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. **Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life,** which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Jesus told them His body was the bread of (eternal) life.

### John 6:35

**And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

He told them that He had come down from heaven.

John 6:38

**For I came down from heaven**, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

This upset the Jews because they “knew” where He had come from—His mother Mary and supposed father, Joseph.

John 6:41-42

**The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?**

Jesus then told them that they would have to eat the bread—His flesh, and drink His blood for eternal life. (The life of the flesh is in the blood.)

John 6:53-54

Then Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.** Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Jews knew what the Law says about eating blood!

Leviticus 17:10-14

And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; **I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood:** and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: **for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.** Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, **No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood.**

The Jews who didn't believe Him, told Jesus that their ancestors had eaten bread from heaven, manna, in the wilderness. Jesus reminded them that all of the people who ate that bread were dead. If they were to eat the bread that was His body, they would live forever.

John 6:58

**This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.**

Many people were bothered by what Jesus was saying. They did not believe Him and stopped following Him.

John 6:60-66

**Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?** When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. **For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not,** and who should betray him. **And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.**

Jesus knew that this was a test of faith for His disciples. Jesus asked them if they were going to leave Him.

John 6:67-69

Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to



**whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

The bread and wine of Passover or communion do not literally become the body and blood of our Lord. We know this because God would never tell His people to violate His Law against eating blood.

Jesus showed His disciples exactly what He meant about eating His body and His blood, when He shared the Passover meal with them. The bread represented His (sinless) body because it was unleavened. The wine represented the blood sacrifice that marked the beginning of the New Testament that God was making with Israel. Jesus reminded them of the future Kingdom of Heaven on the earth where He would observe Passover with them again.

Matthew 26:26-30

**And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the**

**vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.**

God made a New Testament with Israel to redeem them from all of the transgressions they made against the first testament (Old Testament.)

Hebrews 9:14-17

How much more shall **the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause **he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament,** they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

Hebrews reminds Israel that the first testament, the Law, was also dedicated with blood.

Hebrews 9:18-20

Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For **when Moses had**

**spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.**

Verse 20 (above) should sound very familiar to you.

The word “communion” means to be yoked together in fellowship. The Bible defines itself if you look for it. Many times, there are parallel verses with a few words changed to define each other

### 2 Corinthians 6:14

Be ye not unequally **yoked together** with unbelievers: for what **fellowship** hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what **communion** hath light with darkness?

Communion is about remembering that Christ died for each of us, to pay the penalty for our sins.

### Romans 5:8

**But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

All believers are part of the same body—Christ’s.

The Church, the Body of Christ is not required to observe Passover, (or anything else in the Law) but Paul tells us that we should participate in Communion—keep the feast. We are unleavened now that Christ has died for our sins, so we should purge ourselves of malice and wickedness and keep the feast with sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

**Purge out therefore the old leaven**, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. **For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:** Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, **neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

Paul calls Communion “the Lord’s Supper.” It is much like today’s church socials; getting together as believers to enjoy a meal. Paul also tells us that we will observe the Lord’s Supper *until* the Lord comes (to meet us in the clouds,) not forever, like Passover will be in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

Paul tells the Corinthians that they are not eating the Lord’s Supper when they step in front of others for the food, and drink to excess.

### 1 Corinthians 11:20-22

**When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.** For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? **despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.**

Paul scolds the Corinthians for not “discerning the Lord’s body.” The Lord’s body in Paul’s writing is the Church, the Body of Christ. All believers are members of this church and we are to remember (discern) the Lord’s body (our fellow believers) when we take communion. The damnation Paul warns about is not eternal damnation but people acting in a way that is not pleasing to God.

### 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. **For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.** For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge

ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Paul was always writing to believers, reminding them (and us,) to love their fellow believers because of what Christ had already done them (and us.)

Romans 15:7

**Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.**

Galatians 6:2

**Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.**

Ephesians 4:32

**And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

Colossians 3:13

**Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.**

### Philippians 2:4-7

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and **took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:**

### 1 Thessalonians 4:9

But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for **ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.**

### 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

**Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.** Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Observing the Lord's Supper is acknowledging that Christ died on the cross for us all. It is about being servants, serving others as our Lord did.

### Philippians 2:8

And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

Paul explains how communion is supposed to look.

### Ephesians 5:18-21

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Here is another great summary:

### 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

Our salvation could not have been accomplished without Christ's death, but the real celebration for



us is His resurrection. We do not have a dead savior, but a living one! Today we use Communion to remind us not only of His death, but what His resurrection did for us, and for the rest of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are to treat our fellow members as people for whom Christ died.

Many people choose to be water baptized to make a public profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. After reading Paul's information about the Lord's Supper, it becomes obvious that taking Communion is given to us to do just that.

### **Our Communion Service**

#### 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, **ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.**