

Much More Than Crackers & Juice

Communion

1. The nature of the church, the assembly, involves assembling. Evaluate your own practice. Do you understand your obligation to assemble? Does your attendance reflect consistent "coming together" with the assembly? If not, how might you change your priorities or your perspectives to make it so?
2. The nature of the church, the assembly, involves seeing our church as a unit, not just as individuals. We are one bread, one body. How does that truth change the way you view others in the congregation that are different than you? (Consider age, economics, ethnic background, level of spiritual growth, etc.) How should it affect your own conduct toward them and your own commitment to them?
3. Am I causing or participating in divisiveness, ignoring our oneness? If so, who do I need to speak with to fix this break?
4. The nature of the church, the assembly, involves considering one another and caring for one another. What are some simple ways that you can consider and care for our local Body of Christ?
5. In what ways can you see the wisdom of observing the Lord's Table regularly? How do the commands of the Lord to "do communion" reinforce Christian conduct and teaching? Give examples.
6. Since believers are the body of Christ, how should our actions reflect His selfless sacrifices? Can you offer some suggestions on how we might give ourselves sacrificially to one another? (You may want to read 1 John 3:16-18 for a surprising possibility).

¹⁷In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. ²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. ²²Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. ³²When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

³³So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other.

Guest Speaker Jon Knapp

Read: Acts 2:1-21

Monday

1-4 — Read Luke 24:44-49 and Acts 1:4-8. Why did Jesus command His disciples to stay in Jerusalem? What does John's statement in Luke 3:15 and 16 indicate about what took place at Pentecost? How did this event affect the community of faith and the Christian mission?

Tuesday

5-8 — Read Genesis 11:1-9. How do the events of Genesis 11 and Acts 2 relate to each other? What can be said about the role of the Lord and His Spirit-baptized community in overcoming racial and political division? Compare and contrast the miraculous gift of tongues at Pentecost with its later use in Corinth (I Corinthians 14:13-17). What happened to the gift? How is the Holy Spirit evident in your life?

Wednesday

9-11 — This list of nations covers all four points of the compass and represents all the lands to which the Jews had been scattered. How does this historical fact relate to Jesus' promise to build His church (read Matt. 16:13-20)? How are you reaching out for Jesus in your historical situation? The Lord provided all the circumstances necessary to raise up thousands of international missionaries in one day. How is he working in your life? Are your outreach ministries being blessed with fruit?

Thursday

12,13 — What kinds of responses did the Jewish pilgrims show when they heard about the "mighty works of God" in their native languages? How do people today react when they hear the gospel? Read Luke 8:4-15. What are some of the distractions that draw attention away from the truth? Why is it so hard to be consistently faithful? What are some of the messages coming from the world today? How can we stay focused upon God's message, and clarify it for our neighbors?

Friday

14-20 — Read and compare Joel 2:28-32 with Acts 17-21. Peter uses the phrase "the Last Days." How does this paraphrase of Joel 2:28 affect your view of history? If the events foretold about the final phase of history have already begun are you living in anticipation of the Lord's return? And since in the past 2000 years Jesus has not yet completely removed sin and death from our world, what are you doing to keep yourself ready for the consummation of His Kingdom?

Saturday

21 — Read Romans 10:5-17. What does it mean to call upon the Name of the Lord? Have you specifically given your life to Jesus? Are you living in submission to His will today? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the salvation of a sinner, and what is the role of the Christian in the proclamation of the gospel? How do well meaning Christians sometimes try to do the Spirit's work in evangelism?
