

We can understand that to take communion without other Christians makes it less important; the Apostle Paul made it clear that we are to “wait for one another” (I Corinthians 11:33). There is no example in scripture of taking communion without other Christians.

#### **4. Who decides who partakes in communion?**

When we pass the communion trays, we do not decide who can or cannot partake of communion. This is because the Bible says that this is a matter only an individual can decide: *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.* 1 Corinthians 11:28.

This means that we are each responsible to God for ourselves as to whether we are partaking of it with understanding or not.

#### **The Importance of Communion**

The Lord's Supper was given to believers as a memorial to His death, resurrection, and return. Those three days are what we consider each time we partake of communion on the first day of the week. We remember His death with the emblems He authorized us to use; we remember His resurrection with the day He authorized us to partake of it on (Sunday); and we look forward to His

return by partaking of it with fellow believers.

To those who are not Christians, communion is not a blessing, but a curse. Communion represents to a non-Christian the necessity of death for sin, the commandments of Christ that are broken, and the ultimate return Christ will have to bring about a final judgment.

#### **How can someone become a Christian and have communion with Christ?**

1. Have Faith in Jesus Christ, by hearing and believing (Romans 10:17)
2. Repent/turn away from sin and sinful behavior (Acts 2:38)
3. Confess Jesus Christ as Lord (Romans 10:9)
4. Be Baptized for the removal of these sins (Acts 22:16)
5. Remaining faithful to God by keeping the doctrine of Christ (II John 9)

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# What Is the Importance of Communion



A scriptural examination of the practice of taking communion with the church of Christ

# What is Communion?

The word “communion” means a group coming together as one, having a “common union”. We use the word communion to describe the ceremonial meal we share on every Sunday. The Apostle Paul said this is our unity with the death of Christ: *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?* 1 Corinthians 10:16

There are other words used to describe this ceremonial meal: The Lord's Supper (since the Lord created it), the Lord's Table, and Breaking Bread.

## Is it Necessary to Understand Communion?

Understanding communion is so serious, the Apostle Paul said: *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..... For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.* 1 Corinthians 11:27, 29. The church in Corinth did not understand how serious it was to take communion together with understanding.

Partaking of communion without understanding **is a sin**, and condemns the partaker.

## What Must We Understand About Communion?

### 1. The Emblems:

Communion consists of two “emblems”, or items: Passover bread, and fruit of the vine. These remind us of the first Passover, in the book of Exodus, chapter 12

Passover bread was an unleavened bread (which is why it resembles a cracker). It is meant to represent the body of Jesus Christ. Jesus said: *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."* Mark 14:22. We must understand that with His body he died for our sins (*who Himself bore our sins in His own body*, 1 Peter 2:24)

The fruit of the vine was a special fruit juice (from a vine, like grape juice) that represented the blood of Christ. Jesus said: *Then He took the cup, .... and He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.* Mark 14:23,24. We must understand that His blood was the price paid for our relationship with God, called a covenant.

We observe them in this order (bread first, then the cup) because this was the order Christ gave us, and because we understand that we must have our sins taken away before we can have a relationship with God.

### 2. The Day of the Week

When Jesus created communion, He said we would partake of it regularly (*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.* 1 Corinthians 11:26). We see that the first Christians did this on the day that Jesus was resurrected, which was Sunday, the first day of the week: *Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread*, Acts 20:7.

This passage reveals that it was something done regularly on that day. The first day was a day Christians regularly came together (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

### 3. The People We Take It With

Communion is special too because we are taking it with the people we intend to go to heaven with. We are told we take communion with those who look forward to the return of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:26) Only Christians look forward to that return, which is why we take it only with other Christians.