

LAST WEEK - Jim Putman, Senior Pastor

- Jesus said, "...I will build my church..." (Matthew 16:18)
- The Church is God's idea.
- It's God's Word that's in authority over us, not our personal opinions, preferences, or what's culturally popular.
- The first church is what we must measure ourselves by; we're to be devoted to all the first church was devoted to.

EVER WONDER WHY... WE DO COMMUNION?

SETTING THE TABLE FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER:

- Communion was instituted at the _____ meal. (Exodus 12:14)
- Communion was done after the _____ washing. (John 13)

Luke 22:19-20 ¹⁹And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Communion is a memorial, a celebration, and a _____.

EVER WONDER WHY... WE DO COMMUNION EVERY WEEK?

Acts 2:42-47 ⁴²And they devoted* themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

_____ need to know why, and _____ need to remember why.

How many times do you think you've have participated in communion? ____ weeks X ____ years = _____

***proskartereō** (pros-kar-ter-eh'-o); to be devoted to, constantly diligent in, to adhere closely to¹

****koinōnia** (koy-nohn-ee'-ah); a partnership, to participate together in (e.g. fellowship, community, communion, joint participation)

1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation** in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation** in the body of Christ?

CHRISTIAN, DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF COMMUNION! RATHER, KEEP COMMUNION SACRED BY...

1. Giving thought to God's _____ towards you—His Body.

John 6:48-51 ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.

- The God of the Universe came down and undeservingly pursued an intimate relationship with you!
- With His body, He made a way for you to be in His body, the church!
- How devoted are you to body life, both weekend gatherings and small group meetings?
- Who is someone who God would like you to show His grace to?

CHRISTIAN, DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF COMMUNION! RATHER, KEEP COMMUNION SACRED BY...

2. Feeling God's _____ for you—His Blood.

Ephesians 1:7-10 ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

- o Motivated by love, God bought you, paid in full, and said, "It is finished," on the cross.
 - o It's His love that transforms our hearts in becoming more like Him.
 - o Who is someone who God would like you to forgive?
 - o Who is someone who God would like you to go back to and ask for forgiveness from?
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CHRISTIAN, DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF COMMUNION! RATHER, KEEP COMMUNION SACRED BY...

3. Worshipping Him as _____.

Matthew 28:16-20 ¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- o How is your awe of God?
 - o How do you personally prepare your heart and mind in coming to worship Him with the body (church)?
 - o Who do you reach out to when you're doubting and struggling? What do you pray? Who do you talk to?
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QUESTIONS TO REFLECT AND DISCUSS:

Passages to consider: Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:7-22; 1 Corinthians 11:17-33

1. Think about the sermon. What resonates and what challenges from what you heard?
2. Read Luke 22:13-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. From these passages, what promises and reminders are a part of communion? What instructions do you find?
3. What role does communion to play in the community of Christ-followers?
A) What, if any, questions do you have about communion?
4. What are some of your first memories or experiences about taking communion?
A) How may your understanding be different at this point in your life?
5. Think about things associated with communion: repentance, remembering Jesus' death which gives a new covenant of forgiveness and reconciliation, celebrating His work for us, proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior, partaking in the life He offers, identifying with what He has done and His body, the promise of His return... Which of these is something you usually focus on? Is there a new facet of communion you want to focus on?
A) How might taking communion impact you not just at a church service but throughout your week?
6. What is your response to what God is showing you about participating in communion? With whom can you share what you are learning?

NOTE: You may consider partaking in communion as a family or a small group together. Check out the App or www.reallifeministries.com/lgresources for more tips on how!

Next Week: Ever Wonder Why? Week 2: Prayer

Passages to prepare for next week: Luke 11:1-17

¹Find the translations of Greek and Hebrew words used in the Bible using the concordances at BibleHub.com!

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