

COMMUNION

Luke 22:15-20 NIV - And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer... And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

DESCRIPTION

On the night of the first Passover, God's people painted the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their homes as an act of faith by which God would protect them from the destroyer. Even today when Passover is celebrated, it is done in remembrance of this great deliverance by the hand of God.

Jesus Christ is our eternal Passover Lamb. His blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins so that we can be protected from the destruction of sin and the evil one. His body was broken so that we can freely enter into the presence of God to worship. When we take communion, we remember this great deliverance.

The first disciples of Christ took communion (or "broke bread") regularly. Consecrated bread and wine were made readily available for believers to serve themselves or take communion together. As a holy nation and a royal priesthood, (1 Peter 2:9) every believer is a priest of God and able to administer the body and blood of Christ with due reverence. This said, communion and the benefits of Christ's sacrifice are only available to those who believe that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead. This means that if you do not yet believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you should abstain from communion or better yet, believe Jesus and partake.

Practicing the partaking of Communion is about commemorating Christ's sacrifice, renewing our faith in what He has done for us, and to looking forward to His return.



PURPOSE:

To honor and remember the sacrifice of Jesus.

To examine our faith in what Jesus did for us.

To rejoice in the forgiveness of our sins and our New Covenant access to God.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Remembrance of Jesus.

Indwelling life of God.

Renewed faith.

Fresh start of forgiveness.

PRACTICE



1. Prepare the bread and wine.
 - Acquire bread and wine or juice to be consecrated to God for the purpose of Communion.
 - Consecrate the bread and wine to the Lord by praying over them something like, "I consecrate this bread and wine to the Lord."
 - Do not use this bread or wine for casual snacking.
2. Perceive the body and blood of Jesus.
 - Jesus said of the bread and wine, "this **is** my body" and, "this **is** my blood" even when He still had a natural body.
 - Read the Additional Scriptures about what the body and blood of Jesus have done for us.
 - Believe that these Scriptures apply to the body and blood you are about to partake of.
3. Examine yourself and your faith.
 - Do you believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood for the forgiveness of your sins?
 - Do you believe that you are totally forgiven?
 - Do you believe that you can receive all of the benefits of Christ body and blood through faith in Jesus?
 - Do you regard the communion bread and wine/juice as holy and consecrated to God?
4. Remember the Lord's death and proclaim His return.
 - Praise God that because of Jesus's sacrifice, you are protected from the destroyer until Jesus returns.
5. Partake.
 - As you eat the body and drink the blood of Jesus, be consciously strengthened with the life and power of God in your inmost being. The indestructible life of Christ and the same power that raised Christ from the dead is in you.
6. Praise God and rejoice in His salvation!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

1 Corinthians
11:23-32

John 6:53-57

Luke 22:15-20

John 1:29

Hebrews 10:10

Colossians 1:22

Ephesians 1:7

Romans 5:9

1 John 1:7

Revelation 12:11

1 Corinthians 5:7

1 Peter 1:18-19

Passover Story:
Exodus 12-15

NOTES: _____
