

WHAT IS COMMUNION

Communion is an important means of grace in the life of the worship service. It can be seen in many ways as the peak of the service, where we get to experience and apply God's grace to our lives in deeper ways. It also serves as a time to instruct and inspire others in their walk with Jesus. It is an honor and joy to lead others in this sacrament. What do we believe and not believe about communion?

First, communion is an ongoing sign and seal of our relationship with Jesus. It gives assurance of the promises of the gospel. Communion leads us to praise God for His greatness and kindness towards us. It is an active way to demonstrate our 'common-union' with other believers in the body and imparts a deeper understanding to our union with Christ.

We do not believe in the high-church view of communion, namely transubstantiation. The communion bread and wine is not the literal body and blood of Jesus, but rather a physical representation of His body broken for us.

We do not, at the same time, believe in a strict low-church interpretation of communion. The low-church view places communion as a mere reminder of Jesus' death applied to us. The low-church view is mere memorialism.

At the Summit, we believe in a deeper understanding of what it means to remember and we come to communion with expectant hearts. We believe in real Spiritual Presence. Christ does not come down into the elements, but we are lifted up by the Holy Spirit. We realize there is no power in the elements themselves, but that the Holy Spirit can move in our hearts in powerful ways during this time. Communion is a sacred time to be taken seriously. Three things happen in communion:

- It is a memorial. We focus our minds on Jesus and His sacrifice.
- It is a proclamation of the gospel. The gospel in 3D.
- It is participation in the body & blood of the Lord (1 Cor 10:16-17)
 1. Jesus shows us exactly how He is the bread of life, feeding and nourishing us to everlasting life. (13)
 2. We feed on Christ the bread of life through faith.
 3. Christ is the bread of life in the Lord's Supper.
 4. We are introduced into the living fellowship of the triune God.
 5. We receive eternal life—it is a pledge to the faithful that we will share in the resurrection at the last day.

"Do this in remembrance of me." One thing we understand better is that the English word remember has lost its power and meaning. We hear remember and think recall. To better understand the word remember, think of its opposite; dismember.

- Member means a body part.
- To Re-Member means to graft, to sow, to fuse, or to take something not part of your being and make it part again.
- Communion or Common-Union is a time to consider our union with Christ and to one another in Jesus.

Key Verses on Communion: Matthew 26:26-30, the other gospel accounts, 1 Corinthians 11:17-33, John 6:47-58

The participant's role in communion: To go to communion with a believing and receptive heart.

Important books on Communion: The Lord's Supper by Robert Letham & Given for You by Keith Mathison. I recommend both books highly.