

*“When We Come To The Lord’s Table”*

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17 – 21; Luke 22:14 – 23; Revelation 19: 6 – 9; **1st Corinthians 11: 17 - 34**

On our last Communion Sunday we looked at what we are to do **Before** we come to The Lord’s Table.

Today we are going to look at what we are to do **When** we come to The Lord’s Table.

In our lesson from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians we see that the Apostle Paul wanted to make sure that we understand our individual responsibilities when we come to The Lord’s Table.

The first thing is for us to **Remember**.

We see that in verses 23-25.

There are many ways that we have to remember but Jesus chose a meal.

Meals are times to come together and to enjoy each other.

Most of Jesus’ disciples were Jews and they were very familiar with the Passover meal.

Remember Jesus was crucified during the Passover Feast.

The principles God laid down in Exodus 12 regarding The Passover meal apply equally to our celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

We are to remember all of God’s mighty acts in the past.

When we read and mediate on God’s Word to us we learn how much God loves His people, provides for His people, protects His people, and how God delivers His people.

We begin remembering all of God’s mighty works with The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Jesus instituted The Lord’s Supper so we would remember Him and remember all that He has done for us in the past.

When we come to The Lord’s Table we are also to remember what God is doing for us in the present.

It is only by God’s grace that you had a bed to sleep on last night and it is only by God’s grace that you were able to get out of bed this morning.

It is only by God’s grace that you had food to eat this morning.

Remember there are millions of homeless hungry people in the world.

We are to remember what God will do for us in the future.

As Christians we are to look forward to going to heaven when The Lord calls us home.

As we come to The Lord's Table this morning we are to anticipate being invited to The Wedding of The Lamb in heaven.

When we come to The Lord's Table we are to come **Rejoicing**. (verse 26)

We rejoice that Jesus conquered death

We rejoice that Jesus overcame the power of sin and we rejoice that The Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome temptation and sin in our life.

When we proclaim the fact that Jesus came, Jesus suffered and died for us, and that Jesus rose from the tomb for us we can not help but rejoice.

We rejoice that Jesus loved us enough to take our place on the cross so that we can live the abundant life God planned for us.

We rejoice over Jesus' victory and we rejoice over the victory we have in Jesus Christ.

If we are not rejoicing when we tell people about Jesus, either we have not grasped what Jesus did for us or we have not claimed Jesus as our personal Savior.

The Lord's Supper is to be a time of rejoicing.

We also rejoice when we proclaim Jesus' second coming.

The early church anticipated Jesus' return any day and we all should live that way every day.

Jesus is coming back to earth to destroy evil. Jesus is coming back to establish His eternal kingdom of peace, and Jesus is coming back for us so that we will be with Him in Heaven throughout eternity.

When we come to The Lord's Table we are to **Reflect** on our attitudes and our actions.

We all need to reflect on our relationship with Jesus. Is Jesus really The Lord of all aspects of our lives?

We all need to honestly look at the way we are investing the time, the talents, and the money God has entrusted to us.

In verses 27 and 28 we are told to examine ourselves before we come to The Lord's Table.

When we honestly look at our attitudes and at our actions we quickly see that we all need to **Repent**.

We all fall short of God's standards; we are all unworthy disciples.

We all need the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus.

So when we come to The Lord's Table we all need to **Repent**.

Remember repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

In verses 27-29 Paul warns us not to take The Sacrament of Communion in an unworthy manner.

All sin has its consequences and sinning against the body and blood of Jesus has severe consequences and is to be avoided at all cost.

We read about this in verse 30.

When we truly repent we have God's promise of being **Reconciled** with God.

When we are reconciled to God we see our need to be reconciled to our fellow man.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:18-21, we read, *“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

You see reconciliation is not just between us and God.

Reconciliation with God compels us to be reconciled with all the people around us.

We can **not** have a broken relationship with another person and stay in a right relationship with The Lord

We are Christ's ambassadors and Christ has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:20)

The Apostle Paul also scolded the Corinthian Church for divisions in the church.

We are to come to The Lord's Table in unity. (1st Corinthians 11:17)

When we come to The Lord's Table we confirm our covenant **relationship** with The Lord.

Under this covenant The Lord promises to save us from the penalty of our sins and our Lord assures us of eternal life.

Our responsibility under this covenant is to be Jesus' faithful disciples.

When we celebrate this Sacrament of Communion properly through the power of the Holy Spirit we are made **one** with Christ and we are made one with all other believers.

The Lord's Supper is therefore much more than a reminder of Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection.

Through the power of The Holy Spirit our risen Lord is present as a continuing power and a reality, until Jesus returns to take us home.

It is a resurrected, living Christ whom we encounter through the bread and the cup.

We are strengthened and sustained by the promised presence of Jesus Christ

Today as we come to the Lord's Table let us remember celebrating The Lord's Supper is:

- A time to remember
- A time to rejoice
- A time to reflect
- A time to repent
- A time to be reconcile and
- A time of relationship

**AMEN**